OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MIDWEST OPEN AIR MUSEUMS COORDINATING COUNCIL
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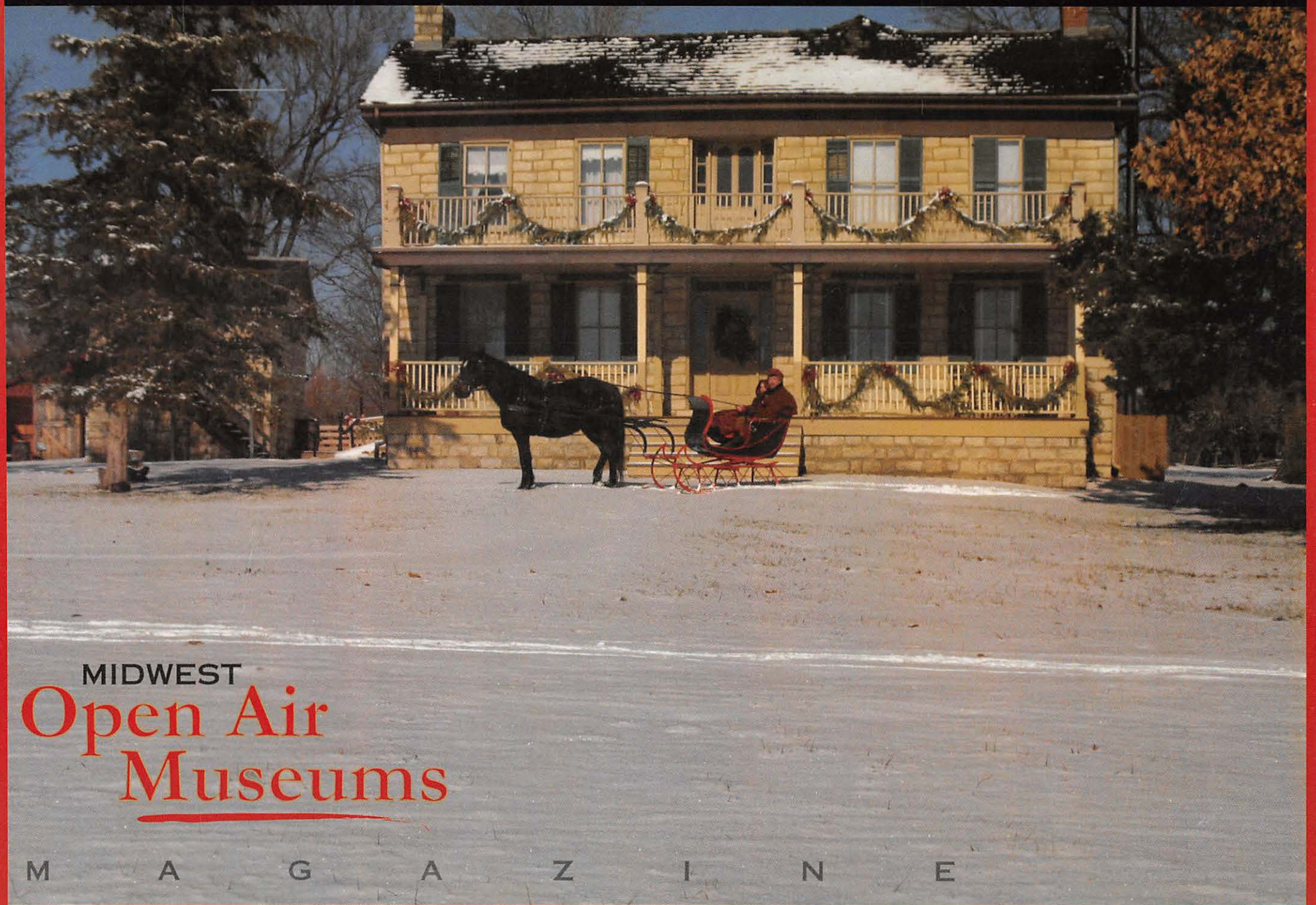

MIDWEST Open Air Museums MAGAZINE

CALL FOR PAPERS

Grist for the Mill:
Re-imagining Our Historic Sites in the 21st Century

Hosted by Spring Mill State Park, Mitchell, IN
November 13, 14, and 15, 2008

It's been said that while the past never changes, what we know about the past is always changing. This holds true for how we interpret, collect and maintain the past.

- ? Have you changed the way you operate based on audience research, changing demographics or new research?
- ? Have you shifted time periods in order to show a more recent time period?
- ? Has new research brought to light information that might add to or challenge previous interpretations of your site or topic?
- ? How has your site been redeveloped since its establishment and, if so, to what purpose?
- ? How can we use these experiences to help all our sites and programs grow toward a stronger future?

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INCLUDE: Title, brief description (content, goals, applications), format (workshop, paper, panel), length (sessions 75-90 min.), audio-visual needs, brief biographical sketch, and contact information.

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Graphic Design: Peter Noll
Ames, IA

Chris Gordy
Galena, IL

Melinda Carrikar
Urbandale, IA

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Galena, IL

Terri Reynolds
Jackson, MI

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EDITORIAL OFFICE
Unless otherwise directed within a specific feature or column, address magazine correspondence and article submissions to:

MOMCC MAGAZINE
1100 Kansas City Road
Olathe, KS 66061

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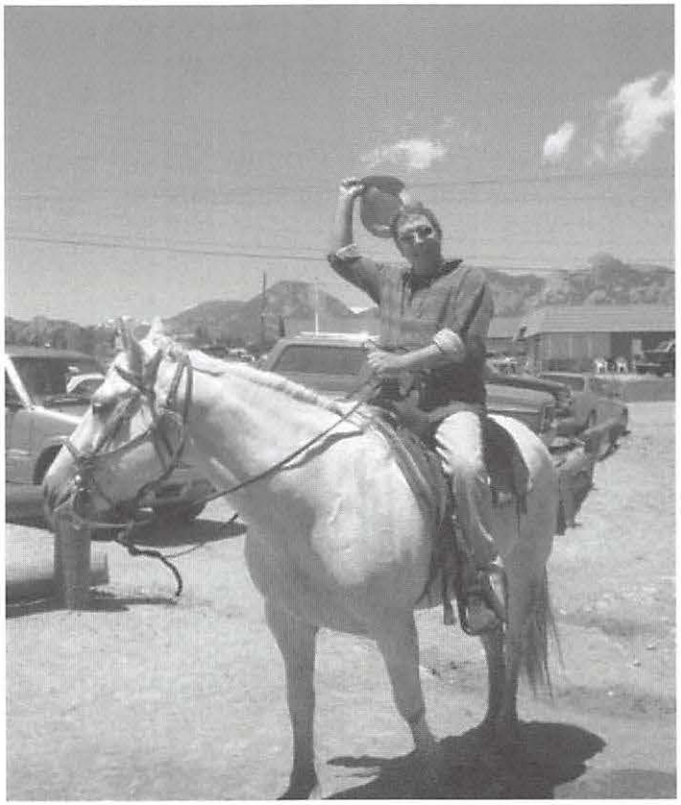
About the Cover

Taking advantage of a fresh snowfall, Tim Talbott, Laura Daugherty, and Soldier enjoy an afternoon of sleighing in front of the Mahaffie House in Olathe, Kansas.

President's Perspective

Well, this is it – my final "President's Perspective." I struggled with the content of this one: it didn't seem fitting to leave you with any words of wisdom, since I've managed to avoid that steadfastly for two years running. I also didn't want to write anything too sentimental, because that's just not my "thang." So in the end, I've come back to something that I started with: a challenge.

As many of you may have noted in my previous ramblings, I tend to draw a lot of parallels between museum organizations and religious organizations. This is a personal quirk of mine, but I don't think that I'm stretching the imagination in doing so. Membership in both types of organizations consists of people who don't have to be there, strictly speaking. Members care deeply about the subject at hand and, as a rule, come to meetings in order to find nourishment. (There are a lot of other parallels, but they don't apply here, so I'll just focus on the following one.)



For both groups, nourishment is a tricky thing: when we get fed too much, we tend to get fat and complacent. Now, I'm not admonishing anyone for nabbing an extra plate at the Friday night conference dinner and dance. I'm talking about sharing the responsibility for sharing the knowledge we gain through MOMCC – for passing the nourishment we gain on to the next guy.

In case I'm being to cryptic, let me offer you this challenge. Take a look at the MOMCC Magazine index from the last five years. Or go back through your registration packets from the past ten conferences. Take a look at the names of the contributors and see how much variety there is. Not a lot. MOMCC consists of more than four hundred members, but I doubt you'd find more than a couple dozen names listed.

Don't get me wrong. The people who contribute currently do so because it's rewarding. In some cases, it's personally gratifying to lead a workshop, present a session or author an article. In other cases, it bolsters a resume or justifies a travel line in a struggling budget. But at some point, it sure would be helpful to not *have* to write a book review for the Magazine, or to present a session. It would be better if *more* people offered to do these things. Can you imagine how much more nourishing it would be if there were…dare I say it…competition for session presentation slots? The mind staggers.

Maybe your gift lies elsewhere. Maybe you're more of an administrator. Have you considered a run for the Board? Well, perhaps you should. This is your organization, and with four Board meetings, two conferences, and three Magazine issues per year, there are plenty of opportunities for more of us to nourish as well as to be nourished.

MOMCC – it's what's for dinner.

Rob Martin

THE EDITORIUM

Well, another year is over, and with the new year comes change. I think that this issue deals with some of the changes that face us as living historians. In Alex Johns' article "Farming Through Change," he talks about the rapidly changing face of farming in America. And in Rob Burg's review of *Last Child in the Woods*, we see how our interactions with nature have changed in a relatively short span of time. When taken together, these pieces cause us to take pause and ask, "What is the role of living history in a world where the rural and the natural is disappearing?"

We cannot simply teach *history* anymore, though it's still an integral part of what we do. Now more than ever, we also need to give our visitors an experience—an experience of being outdoors, of digging in the dirt, of investigating the world around them, and of simply interacting with other humans beings. And sometimes, we just need to listen, something which Becky Stuckey illustrates in her piece, "I Will Come Back Tomorrow." As she shows, there may be times that we don't teach a lick of history, but we still reach a visitor in a positive way.

In addition to these broad changes, we have some changes that are more close to home. As you will notice, Rob Martin's term as President has expired, and Rick Musselman has taken his place. Thanks to Rob for all his hard work and for getting his column to me promptly when I asked for it. (Are you taking notes, Rick?)

And of course, I couldn't finish up an Editorium without reminding you to submit! Not to my will, but to the magazine. For those of you who may be daunted at the prospect of sitting down and writing a lengthy, scholarly article, remember that there are plenty of other opportunities to write for the magazine:

* Read a good book lately? Write a book review! (Please, no reviews of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, though.)

* Did your site put on a new program? Tell us about it!

* Have you just acquired an interesting artifact? Send pictures and a description!

* Do you have historical photographs you'd like to share? Submit them with captions for "A Moment in Time"!

* Are there fascinating letters, diaries, or papers in your collection? Transcribe one for "In Their Own Words"!

The possibilities are endless...

--Laura

SITE SPOTLIGHT:
Buckley Homestead
Lowell, Indiana

by
Becky Crabb

MOMCC's Spring 2008 conference will be held in Merrillville, Indiana just north of host site Buckley Homestead. Here are some interesting tidbits about our host site:

Name of site:
Buckley Homestead County Park, Living History Farm

Size of site:
520 acres, most of which is cash-rented modern farmland. The historic area contains a 1910s farm and one-room schoolhouse, an 1850s pioneer farm, and a 1750s Woodland Indian camp. The support area has picnic shelters, a gift shop, and a labyrinth. An observatory area is operated by the Calumet Astronomical Society.

Last year's attendance:
31,000
Full time staff:
3 (other support staff are within the Park Department)
Part time staff:
1 – 20 (depending on the season; large variability in numbers of hours each works)
Volunteers:
50+

Mission statement:
The Mission of the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board is to create and responsibly manage a county-wide system of parks and open space resources, and to provide recreational, cultural and educational programs based on these resources for the use and enjoyment of the Lake County citizens and visitors.

Hours of operation/season and admission costs:
Grounds are open daily 7 am to dusk. Buildings are open weekends May 1st through Oct. 31st, with varying hours; they are open weekdays for reserved tours and for special programs throughout the year. The Indian camp is staffed as scheduled, approximately one weekend/month. The observatory is open for public as scheduled, approximately one night/month. Admission varies with programs, often free.

Describe the bulk of your programming direction in 27 words or less:
We interpret rural daily lifestyle of the early 1900s dairy farm and school and the settlement pioneer farm for southern Lake County, Indiana.

What style of interpretation do you use?
Third person interpretation is used, with a loosely-scripted first person interpretation used for two special programs—Christmas and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.

What time periods are covered by your site?
1910s, 1850s, 1750s (about once/month), and 1940s (one weekend/year).

List your special events:
Horse-drawn bobsled rides, hands-on tours, WWII tribute reenactment, threshing, Buckley 5-Miler Race, a corn maze, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, fall hayrides, Fall Festival, and Christmas on the Farm.

When was the site opened?
We began with just the Fall Festival in 1979. We opened for year-round visitation, including school tours, in 1983.

Favorite odd comment?
"That's the biggest dog I've ever seen!" said as pointing to an adult cow in the pasture.

What makes the site unique?
1) Decreasing family farms and farmland in Lake County.
2) A Buckley last lived in the main house in the late 1970s, made few changes in the house since the 1917 "modernization," and left most of the original furniture. Therefore, the restoration has original details (e.g., grain-painted woodwork and doors), and the (mostly) original furnishings are in their 1910s location.
3) The bank barn has plank-truss construction (as opposed to post-and-beam) leaving a large open area for loose hay—it's the "Cadillac" of barns.

If money/red tape/bureaucracy was no object, what would you wish for your site?
More staff, a storage/display building for farm machinery, a decent visitor center, a log barn... Then there is the family-style restaurant and bed-and-breakfast...

Briefly describe your livestock program:
At the 1910s farm, the animals represent a dairy farm, including the many aspects of early 1900s family farming. At present we have two Belgian draft horses, one Standard breed horse, three Holstein cows, six mixed and Cotsworld sheep, about twenty Dominique and Rhode Island Red hens, six Gray Toulouse geese, two rabbits, and cats. During the summer we raise five feeder hogs.

Briefly describe your agricultural program:
Mainly we grow feed for the animals—hay; corn in the corn maze; and speltz, which we bind and thresh.

Briefly describe your garden & orchard program:
Three vegetable gardens (1910s, pioneer, and 1750 Woodland Indian) feature historic varieties for each time period (including modern and historic weed varieties). The 1910s orchard has historic varieties of apple, cherry, pear, and quince. Beehives are nearby. A circular herb garden and small native plant bed are near the visitor center.

Briefly describe your foodways program:
The two time periods (1850s and 1910s) give us the opportunity to compare hearth and wood-stove cooking, as well as appropriate recipes and foods for each area.

Briefly describe your clothing program:
Most staff are responsible for making their own appropriate clothing. Approved patterns may be borrowed. Winter sewing workshops offer opportunities to make clothes for individual or volunteer use.

Briefly describe your education programs:
Our guided school tours focus on fourth grade, when they study Indiana history. These include full-day hands-on experience. A frequent parent comment is, "I can't get my children to do this at home!"

What type of publication tells about your park programs?
The Lake County Parks' "Pathfinder."

What is a favorite artifact?
A shillelagh, which Dennis Buckley brought with him from Ireland

What are some favorite stories used in interpretation?
1) From the lower barn overlooking the creek and farmland, Dennis Buckley said it reminded him of Ireland.
2) The Buckley's were "progressive" farmers—not necessarily rich, although farming was profitable in the early 1900s. This is evident in the new-style barn, the lower barn watering system, and the bathroom in the new 1917 kitchen addition. The neighbors told the master builder and the Buckleys that the new style barn construction would not stand. However,

over seventy-five years later during restoration, the barn was almost perfectly square in spite of one corner being off the foundation.

3) When the original barn burned, Mr. Buckley got a nice new barn. Then Mrs. Buckley asked for and received a new kitchen.
4) The new kitchen has a hand-pump to draw water from the cistern for use in the kitchen and the adjacent bathroom. Rose Buckley Pearce, as a child, did not like the hard work of pumping water into the holding tank above the bathroom after each use. So she continued to use the outhouse. That is, until Grandma came and got after her, telling her that since her father put that new bathroom in the house, Rose was going to use it and pump the water.
5) Belshaw Road used to be an Indian trail that was next to the vast Kankakee Marsh. In the early 1900s, the marsh was drained, leaving good farmland and the current ditch/river about four to five miles south of Belshaw.
6) The 500,000-acre Kankakee Marsh was world-renowned for its waterfowl and hunting. It is written that the sky was black when the birds took off in flight.
7) A favorite of the children portraying early 1900s pupils for the Christmas program is the "barring out the teacher." Some trick was played to get the teacher out of the school, and then the students would lock the door. When the teacher asked to get in, the pupils would ask for treats. In one old account, the teacher went to the neighbors and got treats for the pupils. In our reenactment, the teacher has treats on hand, which she shows the pupils. They let her in and she hands out the treats. All this for a bag of few peanuts, an orange, and a candy stick—and the fun!

What is the host site for the MOMCC Spring 2008 conference (trick question)?

Buckley Homestead County Park, Living History Farm just east of Lowell, Indiana. Sessions will be held at the Radisson Hotel at the intersection of I-65 and US 30 in Merrillville, Indiana.

Date for MOMCC Spring 2008 conference?

March 6th-8th. See you then!

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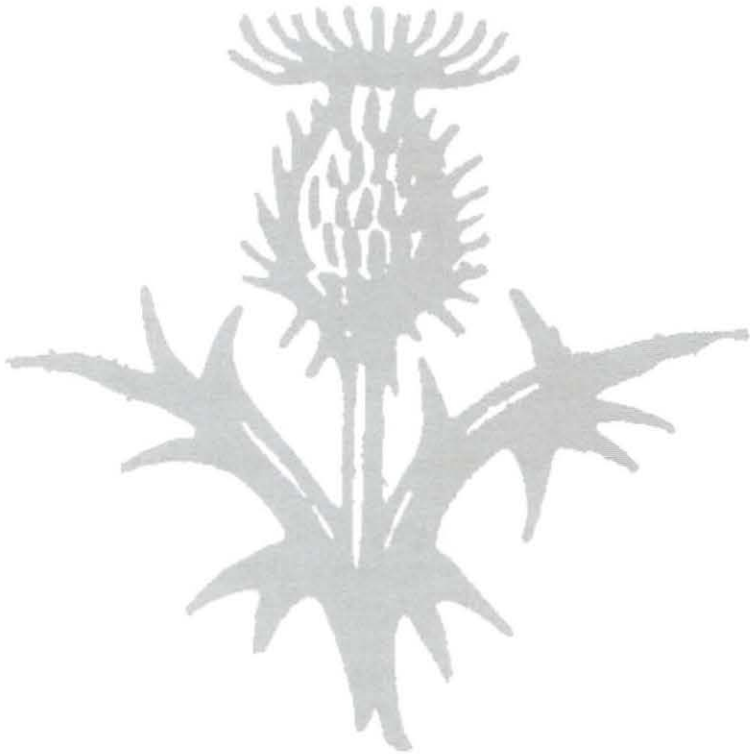

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What I Did Over My Summer Vacation:

An Annotated Bibliography

by
Tom Walsh

After 27 years of working in the financial field, I decided that I wanted to finally pursue my first love—history. So I applied to a few graduate programs in public history. I made it to Arizona State University (ASU) and am now reading way too much and finding something new each day to enjoy. When I decided this is what I wanted to do, I asked Dr. Debra Reid of Eastern Illinois University and Dr. Joe Anderson of the University of West Georgia what I should read in the field to help me prepare for my new adventure.

This list is what they recommended:

Conn, Steven. *Museums and American Intellectual Life, 1876-1926.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1998.

Greenspan, Anders. *Creating Colonial Williamsburg.* Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press, 2002.

Jameson Jr., John H, editor. *The Reconstructed Past, Reconstructions in the Public Interpretation of Archaeology and History.* Walnut Creek: AltaMira Press, 2004.

Leon, Warren, and Roy Rosenzweig, editors. *History Museums in the United States, a Critical Assessment.* Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1989.

Lewis, Catherine M. *The Changing Face of Public History.* DeKald, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005.

Linenthal, Edward T. and Tom Engelhardt, Editors. *History Wars.* New York: An Owl Book, Henry Holt and Company, 1996.

Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me.* New York: Touchstone Books, 1995.

Rosenzweig, Roy, and David Thelen. *The Presence of the Past, Popular Uses of History in American Life.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1998.

Weil, Stephen E. *Making Museums Matter.* Washington, D. C.: Smithsonian Books, 2002.

West, Patricia. *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums.* Washington, D. C.: The Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999.

Zinn, Howard. *A People's History of the United States.* New York: HarperPerennial, 2003.

They were excellent suggestions. I was able to read all of them except *Creating Colonial Williamsburg*. As there are book reviews available on each, I just want to give my quick impression about why a living history farm historian would want to read them and explain why, halfway through my first semester, I am glad I read these works. I think they should be on your bookshelves. I am going to discuss them in the order I read them, which was random (sometimes based on size and somewhat based on interest).

The Changing Face of Public History is a history of the Chicago Historical Society and Museum. Funding is always an issue (no surprises there). It also explains the importance of remembering that the "details" change over time. However, read it to see the struggles with using locals to help stage "neighborhood" exhibits.

History Wars recaps, from eight perspectives, the controversial Enola Gay exhibit at the Smithsonian in 1995. All eight had the same view; only one side of the issue was presented. It also explains how outside influences can make or break an exhibit. See pages 194-198 for how to handle these outside influences. I think this gives good ideas if you want volunteers to help create an exhibit.

The Presence of the Past, Popular Uses of History in American Life presents the results of a telephone survey that asked people how they express their concern for the past. Such a survey is probably no longer possible, given today's cold-calling restrictions. However, this identifies what is important to people, how they identify "the past" (what we would call "personal history") versus "history" (boring, school room stuff), and how different ethnic groups view what is "important" differently. This is a good read to remove some potential assumptions we may hold about our visitors.

Museums and American Intellectual Life, 1876-1926 discusses the history of museums and how they changed when universities took on the role of centers of learning. This book helped me develop ideas reasserting some of that influence and has put me on a course to explore what museums will be like in this electronic age.

History Museums in the United States, a Critical Assessment gives examples of what to do, and what not to do, with exhibits. From reading it, I envisioned taking Jon Keuster's (Volkening Heritage Farm, Schaumburg, Illinois) timeline of the farming year and adding pictures and/or artifacts for the current season and having a small, but hopefully effective display that explains what is going on around the farm. *History Museums* was useful in several other ways as well. It gave the visitor's perspective of the site in Chapter 2 and discusses things that can create prejudice in interpretation in Chapter 4, plus many other interesting suggestions. I have more practical application-type notes on this book than any of the others.

Making Museums Matter asks us to have a plan for our future given the electronic society in which we find ourselves. How do we deal with distance learning and how much more involved does the local community have to be in that planning (so as to maintain relevance and attendance)? There is also a good discussion of copyright protections at the end.

Lies My Teacher Told Me exposes spects of history you do not get in most textbooks. The key here is that, as professional historians, we need to find ways of delivering more accurate views of the truth to an audience that has not heard these things and may think we are just plain wrong in espousing them.

A People's History of the United States is similar to Loewen's work. Although it covers some of the same topics, it expands the perspective on the topics. If you have not read a general history lately, try one or both of these. (Deb Reid also likes *Created Equal* as a general text as it includes minority and "silenced" authors)

Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums is a good history of the house museum, and what it sometimes takes to get one started and keep it running.

The Reconstructed Past, Reconstructions in the Public Interpretation of Archaeology and History. There are various examples of how different sites handle their presentations, but the following is a pretty good summary of the idea. "Lively museum programs at Williamsburg and elsewhere have demonstrated that stage sets, old or new, are very useful in developing discourse about life in the past. Perceptions of living conditions are far richer if the settings can be seen, smelled and felt. Along with the evocative character of surviving and reconstituted landscapes come some dangers, however. Among these is the possibility that some aspects of past conditions will be grossly misrepresented and that the degree of veracity – or authenticity – is overstated. Museums have long erred in emphasizing what they believe is accurate, realistic, authentic, in favor of an honest expression of what's relatively secure and what's largely hypothetical. Explaining the research and design process draws museum-goers into thinking about historical interpretation in favor of absorbing unqualified presentations of how the past is perceived" (55-56). The living history sites where I worked and have visited explain what we are doing and why we are doing it to some degree and when given the opportunity, but reading this may spark some additional ideas that may help do it better.

Some of these books are on my reading list at ASU. Some of them have given me ideas to discuss with my fellow public historians in developing programs for use at museums, and will allow me to be more critical of my work and of museums I visit in the future. All of them have reaffirmed my decision to go back into the history field while I can still remember which end of the horse bites!

Tom Walsh volunteered at the Living History Farm in Iowa and Volkening Heritage Farm in Illinois while working for major financial institutions. Many, many years from now, he hopes to have a Ph.D. in Public History so can get back to working at museums.

From the Bookshelf

Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder
Richard Louv. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2005.
323 pages, including end notes and suggested reading.
Hardcover: $24.95 (ISBN: 1-56512-391-3) Paperback: $13.95 (ISBN: 1-56512-522-3)

"Nature is touching me!" Adrian Monk of the television show *Monk* is a pretty messed-up individual. But doesn't this also sound a bit like some of our outdoor museum and historic sites visitors? How many times have we at living history sites and outdoor museums experienced children that were fearful of their surroundings because it was out of the ordinary to them? Do you think this was an isolated incident or part of a trend of what is typical for today's youth and their lack of interaction with nature? Richard Louv, an author and journalist from San Diego tackles this alarming (at least it should be) issue in his book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*.

Mr. Louv's book was initially published in 2005 and has had a powerful effect in the nature and outdoor education fields on how and what we are teaching children and how we can connect to more of them who may be suffering from what Mr. Louv calls "nature-deficit disorder." As the book gains greater popularity, we in the living history field can ask, "How do we fit in?" Although Mr. Louv does not focus on living history, he gives plenty of answers to this question.

The hypothesis of *Last Child in the Woods* is that today's generation of youth (and really those of at least a couple of generations back) have grown up alienated from nature and that this alienation has caused irreparable harm, including nature-deficit disorder. The book is not just a soothsayer of doom and gloom, but also provides an antidote to nature-deficit disorder.

Just what is nature-deficit disorder? According to Louv, "Nature-deficit disorder describes the human costs of alienation from nature, among them: diminished use of the senses, attention difficulties, and higher rates of physical and emotional stresses. The disorder can be detected in individuals, families, and communities. Nature deficit can even change human behavior in cities, which could ultimately affect their design, since long standing studies show a relationship between the absence, or inaccessibility, of parks and open space with high crime rates, depression, and other urban maladies."

Throughout his book, Mr. Louv introduces the reader to a number of people, from children to teenagers and young adults to parents and educators, to compare and contrast how children were able to play in nature through much of the twentieth century to the last fifteen years or so where playing in nature in places such as planned communities is illegal or in neighborhoods where parents and other adults fear "stranger danger," and children are not allowed to play outside. A third symptom of nature deficit disorder is the over-scheduling of extracurricular activities and organized sports for children. Many kids just don't know how to play on their own anymore and use their imagination.

Mr. Louv states that nature deficit can be recognized and reversed, both individually and culturally. However, nature deficit is only one side of the coin. The other side is natural abundance. Not only should we be focusing on what is lost, but also on what can be gained. Whereas the bulk of the reviews of *Last Child in the Woods* has focused on Mr. Louv's focus on the creation of nature deficit disorder, few respond to the second half of his book, where he presents theories (his and others) on how our society can reverse this trend and begin to bring nature back into our neighborhoods, communities, and even large metropolitan areas. He also includes the theory of reconnecting our modern society to an agrarian life. While this seems overly idealistic, just visiting the living history farm in the local park district or metropark is a major connection for most.

In his book, Mr. Louv introduces the reader to the concept of the "third frontier." This is based on the idea of the first American frontier (so famously put to death in historian Frederick Jackson Turner's "Closing of the Frontier" in 1893) and the "second frontier," which was the period of much of the twentieth century. From the era of Theodore Roosevelt's presidency to the end of the baby boomer era (1964) there was a great nostalgia of the frontier—characterized by the books of Daniel C. Beard—which encouraged children (mostly boys) to experience the outdoors firsthand, and later by television's Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone.

This third frontier which today's children are growing up in is characterized by at least five trends: a severance of the public and private mind from our food's origins; a disappearing line between machines, humans, and other animals; an increased intellectual understanding of our relationship with animals; the invasion of our cities by wild animals (even as urban/suburban designers replace wildness with synthetic nature); and the rise of a new kind of suburban form.

While this frontier is still being formed, there are many ways that again outdoor museums can help to connect the generation of this third frontier to nature. The obvious is the living history farm showing children (and their parents!) where their food comes from, but also to even show what cattle really look like. The recent animated film *Barnyard* showed ALL cattle (both male and female) with udders. If this is how children are learning about nature, then we have a big job to do. But there are other more passive ways to do this also, such as a nature walk through the pasture, meadow, prairie, woodlot, or forest. Just asking open-ended questions can help, too: Where can we get water from? Where would you go to get out of the rain? Where do the animals get their food?

What do you do when a child knows about the animals that live in the Amazon rain forests, but doesn't know what animals live in the woods just down the road from their house? Today's children are learning more about worldwide ecosystems, which is not a bad thing, but not learning about the nature that surrounds them. The elementary school where I and another MOMCC member went to bordered an old pasture that was pretty marshy and had drainage ditches where tadpoles were caught in old glass pop bottles every spring (Faygo bottles with screw tops worked the best!). We rode our bikes a few blocks to the small creek that flowed through town and caught our share of crayfish. And we built forts in the nearby vacant lot too. Today, children either wouldn't even think to do these things, or would get in trouble for doing so. Unfortunately, there are many places where children are punished for doing the above activities, as the author of the book points out.

The Basic Essentials for Starting a Nature Library for Your Historic Site or Museum:

Okay, so you've got a great library about the history of your site and about what you interpret. You have all the top books on how to be a better interpreter, historic cookbooks, books on period clothing, and anything else that could possibly come up. But you have nothing that can help you answer the question a visitor asked about how to identify that blue wildflower out in the pasture. So guess what? It's time to start a small nature library.

You don't have to purchase a lot of books, nor any large, exhaustive tomes on specific topics. Guidebooks on the birds, mammals, trees, and wildflowers in your area are a start. I would recommend either Peterson Guides or Audubon guidebooks. If there are specific books for your state, those should be on your list. In Michigan we are blessed to have excellent books on Michigan Trees and Michigan Wildflowers. You may also want books on edible plants, an insect/arachnid guide, and tracks and scat identification book in your library. Finally books on nature education and theory are also important to include. These would include Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*, Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, Joseph Cornell's *Sharing Nature with Children* and *Sharing the Joy of Nature*, and Richard Louv's *Last Child in the Woods*.

As you expand your nature library, you may want to consult other sources in your area. Two sources for books and publications are your local state extension office and your local 4H office. Check with a local nature center for other information, too.

I'm lucky in that I work with naturalists in a state park daily. I feel that besides introducing my visitors to the history of Michigan's lumber industry, one of the best parts of my job is helping to connect our park visitors, especially children, with the outdoors. While the naturalists do this with the guided nature walks, and programs that include animal furs and even live animals, I do this with a number of activities –walking around the nearby forest to gather firewood, having kids help us with toting buckets of water (with a hand carved wood yoke), taking them through the woods to cruise timber (look for the biggest white pines that would be best to cut—though we don't actually cut any), and use the crosscut saw to cut small logs. The smile on the faces of the young children and on their parents is the greatest of rewards.

I believe that *Last Child in the Woods* is an important read for everyone who works in an open-air museum. Many who read this will nod their head in agreement to the stories that he shares with readers. It may also make you rethink some of the ways you share your site with your visitor. I certainly did. One of the most quoted lines in the book is of a San Diego fourth-grader named Paul who said, "I like to play indoors because that's where all the outlets are." It is our duty to show Paul and others like him that you can have fun outside.

If your site has a nature library along side your history library, then this is a book that you need to get (and have your interpretive staff read). If your site does not have a nature libary, then this is the book you should use to start one.

Rob Burg is the Site Historian/Museum Site Manager for the Hartwick Pines Logging Museum, CCC Museum and Tawas Point Lighthouse for the Michigan Historical Center. Rob has worked out of Hartwick Pines State Park in Grayling, Michigan since 1998 and enjoys sharing his love of the outdoors with all of his museum visitors.

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I Will Come Back Tomorrow

BY

BECKY STUCKEY

I'm often asked what I do when I volunteer at Historic Prophetstown [in Battle Ground, Indiana]. I have always had a difficult time answering that question. I take a deep breath and start with, "I do what needs to be done today. I stuff envelopes, help with school groups, enter data, water the mares (though thanks to Melissa Brown, Agriculture Manager, that hasn't happened in a very long time), gather lists of names for the next fundraiser…"

The next question is, "Why do you keep doing it?" Another hard one to answer. "I feel needed; Dris Abraham, COO, often asks me to 'please come back tomorrow;' I thoroughly enjoy working with the staff at Historic Prophetstown; sometimes I just don't want to eat lunch alone…"

Yesterday both of these questions became a little easier to answer. Dani Seward, Administrative Assistant., asked me to help with a field trip. Seventy-five second graders would be here from 9:00-1:30, and I was to take twenty-five at a time out to the Native American Village (about a fifteen-minute walk one way) to talk to Jerry Cochrane, *and* I was going to teach them something about the prairie along the way. That meant three trips out to the village and back with twenty-five seven- and eight-year-olds. Yikes!

As we started toward the village, we stopped and dug a little dirt from one of the crop fields, and then we dug a little dirt from the prairie and compared the two. I hope that helped them understand why Dris was sitting behind two huge mares turning the soil. We saw a lot of butterflies, picked milkweed pods, and found animal tracks. One girl, "Clara" walked with me for a short time and told me she had KFC for dinner last night. She also told me that she was staying in a motel because their electricity had been turned off.

We made it to the village. Jerry was waiting; he is so good with those kids. He told them about Indian life and answered every one of their questions.

As we headed back to the farmstead, Clara held my arm. I asked her if she was cold, but she said no, she just wanted to hold on. We walked quietly for a few minutes, and then she asked me a question.

"Do you believe that when someone you know dies they stay in your heart?"

I told her that I do believe that we hold people in our hearts. She told me about a woman whom she and her family were visiting. They were all sitting together in the living room. The woman got up to leave the room, and Clara and her family asked if she was all right. She said she was fine—then she fell to the floor. She was dead. I asked who the woman was.

"Aunt Carol—she was nice. If we wanted anything to eat or drink, she would get it for us. Her husband is mean. He won't help us even if we ask nice."

She said she knows that her mom and dad will die too, but they are still young and will be here for a long time. I tried to reassure her that Aunt Carol would be with her forever.

Is it part of the Historic Prophetstown mission to hold a little girl close when she needs to feel safe? No.

Is it part of the Historic Prophetstown mission to grieve with a little girl dealing with death for the first time? No.

Is it worth spending my time, talent, and treasure at Historic Prophetstown when I have no idea what will need to be done today? Absolutely!

Yes, Dris, I will come back tomorrow.

Becky Stuckey was introduced to the museum world in 1985 by Dr. Esther Rupel, a textile professor at Purdue University. She spent about three years in the costume shop at Colonial Williamsburg in the late 1980s before returning home to Lafayette, Indiana. She has participated in Historic Prophetstown in various capacities since 2000 and currently serves on the Board of Directors as Secretary and Membership Chair and is also an active volunteer.

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Farming Through Change

BY

Alexander Johnson

On a calm spring day, five year old Andrew Graham rode into town with his nervous parents, Robert and Sarah. The town was Somonauk, in DeKalb County, Illinois, and the year was 1850. These were the first of my ancestors to make their home in DeKalb and Lee Counties, in the central part of northern Illinois. Ever since that fateful day in 1850, an ancestor of mine has resided in these counties. The face of farming has changed greatly since 1850, and the evolution of the farming way of life can be illustrated very well by examining my own family's history. Some of the most drastic changes seem to be occurring now, as we begin the new century. These current trends in agriculture, including low crop prices and suburbanization, will be examined, and I will investigate the root of this constant change in the field of farming.

The story of the Graham family begins in the mid-eighteenth century. Upset with English Anglicans who persecuted the Presbyterian Scots, many families moved to Northern Ireland. After a short time of unrest there, the Grahams, along with several other families in the area, emigrated to America and settled in New York. In 1837, the family left their upstate New York home to farm in the more expansive fields of Reynoldsburg, Ohio. After only thirteen years in that area, however, the family moved yet again; this time they were welcomed by a new, more fertile area in thirteen-year-old DeKalb County. There they became prominent members of the local Presbyterian Church, and little Andrew grew up to be a teacher and the family genealogist, documenting the history of the clans that had journeyed all the way from Scotland ("Famous, Infamous, and Not-So-Famous Scottish-Americans").

Unlike the experience of the Grahams, however, most of my family lived the lives of typical Norwegian immigrants. Sailing to America from Hardanger, Norway, on the *Jørgen Brunchorst* in 1857, Elias Espe probably felt the same nervous feelings as the Grahams. After arriving in Quebec, the young Norwegian lad went off to find his fortune in Chicago. Soon, however, he was drawn to Willow Creek Township, right on the DeKalb/Lee County line. There he and his siblings, much like today's immigrants, worked as hired hands on the settled Englishmen's farms. They were treated very poorly. Elias recalled a time when he was forced to live in the barn and eat field-corn since he was not paid enough to provide himself with these necessities. Additionally, his sister, Aasa, was forced to pay $1.25 after heat from the oven warped the English family's wooden-handled silverware. This was quite a sum, considering that she was earning twenty-five cents per week at the time.

Although these Scandinavians had a harder time at first, easier times were ahead of them. Eager to see his new country and have an adventure, Elias went off to California to find his fortune in gold. The journey across the Rocky Mountains was more arduous than he and his party of Norwegian boys had anticipated, however. After coming down with fevers and riding the rough expedition in the back of a wagon, many wished they were dead rather than continue, but the group persevered. Unlike many young hopefuls looking for adventure, Elias actually brought back a tidy sum of gold money and purchased a large farm with its proceeds. Additionally, he assisted numerous family members in their passage to the new world, adding to a fairly large Norwegian community in the town of Lee. To this day all of the streets in the village have Norwegian names.

In 1869, Elias wed Mallene Randa, also a fairly wealthy Norwegian immigrant, in the First Lutheran Church of Lee. In 1870, however, after many years of infighting over the issue of slavery, Elias Espe and several other members, split off from the congregation to form their own organization. Espe was so devoutly convicted to this new organization that he had the church built on a section of his new farm; he used his ground to further his most precious organization—the church. This church stood until 1913, when it was struck by

lightning and burned to the ground. A new church was built down the road, and it is now known as Calvary Lutheran Church. Music was a very integral part of the Norwegian immigrants' lives, and it continues to be so today. After nearly 150 years, my uncle and great-aunt are the organists at the First Lutheran and Calvary Lutheran Churches, and my family members still attend both congregations. Without Elias Espe and my other Norwegian-American ancestors, our family would not have this foothold in the farming community which we now call home (Hanson 121-23).

Two years following their union in marriage, Mallene gave birth to a daughter named Julia. In 1895, Julia wed her neighbor to the south, Isaac Peterson. These young innovators took full advantage of the "Golden Age of Agriculture." Isaac had a large barn built that h o u s e d his sizable cattle herd, along with a cement silo nearby. Additionally, he had a corn crib built on the far north end of the farm to facilitate drying in the stiff Midwestern winds. Furthermore, he diversified his livestock, acquiring cattle, sheep, geese, chickens, and even bees. He also bought a neighboring farm, nearly doubling the size of his operation.

Early in the twentieth century, Isaac purchased an Avery tractor with two of his Norwegian neighbors, Simon Espe and Lewis Prestegaard. With Julia canning and preparing food in the home, the family was nearly self sufficient. Seeing his family's need for a more modern home, Isaac had a large four-square type home constructed. This home was extremely modern for its time; it contained full indoor plumbing, a large eat-in kitchen, and even a bedroom for the hired men or the teacher to sleep in. The home was completed in 1905, and an upstairs room was made ready just in time for baby Gladys to be born.

Education remained a top priority in the innovative Norwegian family's household. In 1917, a more modern one-room school was built on the site of the old one, on a corner of the farm that Isaac's father had donated. The Petersons took an active role in education. Isaac and Julia sent all of their children to their country school, Isaac served as a Director, and the teacher was even housed in the Peterson home. Isaac Peterson can truly be counted as one of America's great innovator-farmers.

By the middle of the twentieth century, the infant born in the new house had grown to a woman. Continuing in her farming family's pride for education, she graduated from Northern Illinois Teachers' College in the early 1920s and taught in the schoolhouse on her family farm. Married with two children, Gladys (Peterson) Thorsen was a typical farm wife of the 1940s and 1950s. She worked hard in her garden, cooked large meals for her family and the hired men, and served on several committees for her church. Her husband, Orlando, continued the farming innovations that his father-in-law had begun, and in 1941, the Thorsens purchased the farm from Gladys's four other siblings. Just coming out of the Great Depression, and with World War II not far ahead, Orlando specialized his production to just crops and cattle—quite a difference from the menagerie on the Peterson farm. He constructed several new sheds with plenty of storage, a modern shop, and a garage. Additionally, he built another silo and corn crib in order to dry his crops more efficiently. He even had a mechanized auger system installed, so all of his cattle could be fed at the push of a button. Farming was profitable for Orlando and Gladys, and the farm served as a good place to raise their two children, Charles and Kathleen.

By 1973, upon the death of his father, Charles had taken on the full responsibilities of the farm. He expanded the family cattle business to a herd of over 500 head, and even began to raise show-cattle to sell to young entrepreneurs interested in that business. He built a large, modern confinement barn that held about 350 cattle, and he became a well-known cattleman in the area. He purchased a small farm and rented a neighboring 160 acre tract to pasture even more cattle and raise more crops. He had a pit silo stocked with silage for feed, and he added a special molasses concoction to help increase the weight of his beef cattle. Just like his ancestors before him, Charles was a farmer who took full advantage of the new technology available to him. Together with his Rockford-born wife, Joyce, who had to adjust to life as a rural farmwife, the Thorsens raised three children: Christine, Eileen, and Michael.

In 1983, Christine was wed to James Johnson, another longtime Norwegian member of the community. He attended the same Lutheran church that Elias Espe, Christine's great-great grandfather separated from, the First Lutheran Church of Lee. Graduating with an Architecture degree from the University of Illinois, James was very proficient in redesigning and upgrading the farming equipment and decaying outbuildings on the farm. A new Morton pole shed was constructed, buildings were repainted and new roofs were put on two barns, a shed, and a garage. Buildings were demolished and a new, streamlined, modern farmstead began to appear. James also designed a planter attachment in which the same planter could be used for both 38-inch corn rows and 19-inch soybean rows.

Unable to fully support his family on farm income alone, James obtained an additional full-time job doing architecture work in Rockford, Illinois, and his wife Christine became the first woman in her family to work full-time outside the home. Unwilling to leave their rich farming past behind them, these modern farmers persevered through low crop prices and retained their farming heritage. According to historian Eric Mogren, "In 1945 a farm returned about 17 percent of its value as income, but by 1970 farmers received only about 6 percent of their total value as income" (172). This decline in value chased many farmers away, but luckily my parents held on. They even retained their status as active members of the farming community. As a member of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, James paid close attention to agricultural policy. This assisted him in increasing his yields and helped him to practice a more precision farming method. Without this advanced study,

the Johnsons may have followed the path of many modern agriculturalists deserting the field of farming.

Throughout all the changes in agriculture over the past 150 years, one thing has remained constant: the land has always been the most valuable commodity. Whether they used it to plant crops or pasture cattle, or to provide a home for important causes such as the church or the school, farmers have realized the importance of their land. Now, more than ever, though, farms have begun to consolidate, and farmers have begun to retire with no heirs, leaving many farms to be paved over into subdivisions and strip-malls.

Although nearly everyone in the United States has heard the word "farm," many are not fully aware of the meaning of that term. Additionally, most people without recent connections to farming have a very antiquated idea of what a farm should be. When asked about a farm, most would say that they imagined a plain white house, with a man on a tractor in the field. There would be a wife tending to the many animals, doing such chores as picking up the freshly laid eggs and milking the cows. Perhaps there would even be a son wearing bib-overalls with a pitchfork tending to the sheep and cattle. Although it is not exactly a true vision now, it would be very close to the way farms were in the days of Elias Espe or Isaac Peterson.

While there is *some* truth to the idyllic scene previously described, involving Ma, Pa, and Junior, the face of farming has changed drastically, especially in the last fifty years. According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, currently there are only 76,000 farm operators. In 1959, there were 164,000. That is a loss of over 1800 farmers per year in Illinois alone. Moreover, with farm prices falling and farm costs rising, most farmers' wives, and many farmers themselves, have been forced to find off-farm work to supplement their farming income. In addition, most farms are on a much larger scale than they have been in years past. Currently, the average size of a farm in Illinois is 368 acres—more than double the 160 acres that the settlers received under the Homestead Act. Along with the larger farms comes more specialization. Most grain farms in Illinois only grow corn and soybeans, and if a producer decides to raise livestock, rarely will he raise more than one type of animal. According to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, less than one in four farmers raise beef cattle, and only one in ten farmers raise hogs. The story of the modern American farmer is not all doom and gloom, however. Yields are higher than ever before, thanks to modern biotechnology and improved fertilization methods. Additionally, farm machinery is larger and more efficient than ever. Despite all this advancement, though, many modern farm families frequently find themselves yearning for the rural way of life that seems to be gone forever.

One example of farming's recent changes is the trend for entire farming neighborhoods to disappear to make way for subdivisions. Despite the number of times people have told others about their "hometown," most have never stopped to actually think about where they are from. They have never even given a thought about what was there before their house was. Chances are, whether it was five years ago or two hundred, it was at one time farmland. For better or worse, urban areas are encroaching on rural, small town areas just like DeKalb County at a faster rate than ever before.

A good example of suburban encroachment of a rural area is where my family has lived for the past century and a half: on a farm in DeKalb County, in north-central Illinois, about sixty miles west of Chicago. According to Susan Gehl and Jerry Paulson of the American Farmland Trust, in 1987 there were 1063 farms in the county, but by 1992 the number of farms had dropped to 942—a loss of 121 farms in only five years. When it comes to size of farms, however, the inverse is true. In 1969, the average farm was 270 acres, but by 1992 it had risen to over four hundred acres. This means that there are fewer and fewer farms around, and what farms that are left are getting bigger and bigger. This change in agriculture was spurred by a stark difference in the average farmer's income and expenses, compared to those of others in the job market.

According to Tim McMahon, editor of "The Financial Trend Forecaster," the unadjusted price for a bushel of corn in August of 1974 was $3.58, and by August of 2000, it was $1.78 per bushel. Adjusted for inflation, that is a $12.50 decline in price per bushel over a twenty-six year period. Imagine if this decline in salary was experienced by *all* American workers. In addition, farmers' costs are extremely high. According to a November 2004 article in the *Progressive Farmer* magazine, a combine (which every farmer needs to harvest his crop) from 1995 costs nearly $50,000. And from my own experience, I know that some new combines can cost as much as a new home—hundreds of thousands of dollars. In this situation, many farmers can no longer make a living on their small, family farms, so they often end up selling their property to their neighbors or a large agricultural corporation. The new owners farm it for a while, and if it is adjoining a town, many choose the more profitable route of development into subdivisions. With the influx of urbanites eager to move to a less cramped, safer location, it creates an ideal situation for suburbanization.

There are several positive facets to suburbanization. People from urban areas often have many positive experiences in their new rural settings. They get to live in a cleaner, more open environment. Since the population, and therefore the demand, is lower, things are cheaper. They get to see more

wide, attractive landscapes. They also have the advantage of living in a safer, more community-oriented environment. Former urbanites also can send their children to more close-knit schools with less violence.

Rural people benefit from suburbanization, too. Many rural residents are farmers, and many farmers own large tracts of land. When the demand for their land increases, the price increases. So the farmers get to make money by developing their land. A farmer just north of my DeKalb County farm recently decided to develop his land into a subdivision of 250 homes, which will nearly double the small community of 900 people. Also, after urbanites move to rural areas, they bring many stores and amenities with them, such as large franchises and restaurants that rural people previously had to travel many miles to patronize. For example, five years ago, the nearest chain bookstore or clothing outlet to my small hometown of Shabbona, Illinois, was in Rockford, about an hour's drive. With all of the development coming to DeKalb, however, there is currently an Old Navy, a Borders, a Target, a Starbucks, and much more within a twenty-minute drive.

The phenomenon of suburbanization does have its drawbacks, though. When urbanites who moved to the rural areas for the scenery finally settle in, they often have a rude awakening. Rural areas do not have very many cultural activities to participate in. There are few art shows, museums, or dance clubs. In addition, rural schools cannot offer the variety of courses that urban schools can because of their lack of funds and students. Activities to participate in are much more limited in the rural atmosphere. Also, the former-urbanites must adjust to the fact that in order to participate in these activities, or to go to a nice restaurant, or to get on an airplane or a train, they must travel long distances. Many must commute for over an hour to get to their jobs near the city. This not only wastes fuel, but it also takes up time.

The urbanization of rural areas is also sometimes detrimental to the longtime citizens of that rural area. There are more roads and sewers to be kept up, so taxes are often raised, and historic schools—often social hubs of a community—must be demolished to make way for the rebuilding of larger ones. Finally, the encroachment of urbanites on rural areas changes the way of life in that small town. As it changes from a small town to a large town, and eventually into a suburb, the small town character is often lost in the hurry to modernize, update, and expand. I believe that something is lost from a town if the corner grocery store has to close down because of a Super Wal-Mart on a nearby highway. With all the change in this century, one can hardly imagine what the landscape of Illinois and DeKalb County will look like in the next hundred years.

With this suburban encroachment onto prime farmland, the number of farms will undoubtedly continue to decrease. Additionally, the number of farmers will continue decrease for a combination of reasons, including the lack of available farmland, seemingly insurmountable expenses, and increasing requirements. According to the Economic Research Service of the USDA, the average farmer was 54 years old in 1997. That means in about ten to fifteen years, most farmers will be retired. New farmers are not easily attracted because of the enormous expenses and the ever-increasing knowledge needed to be a farmer. Today's farmer needs to be a lawyer, a mechanic, a biologist, a conservationist, and a banker; most young people find easier, more profitable jobs elsewhere in the workforce. This means that family farms will dwindle, and factory farms will flourish.

Whether the predictions previously described will come true or not, one thing is certain: agriculture will change in the coming years. The transformation from early American farming has been gradual. From Elias Espe, and the first pioneers who broke the prairie sod, to Isaac Peterson and the innovative farmers from "The Golden Age of Agriculture," to Orlando Thorsen and others who produced food for a hungry nation when it needed it, to Charles Thorsen and James Johnson who struggle today with farm prices and urban encroachment, American agriculture is constantly revolutionizing. One thing will never change about agriculture, however: humans will always need food to eat, clothes to wear, and shelter to live in. American agriculture, despite all its changes, continues to satisfy these necessities.

Alexander Johns is a double major in Finance and Business Administration--Marketing at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

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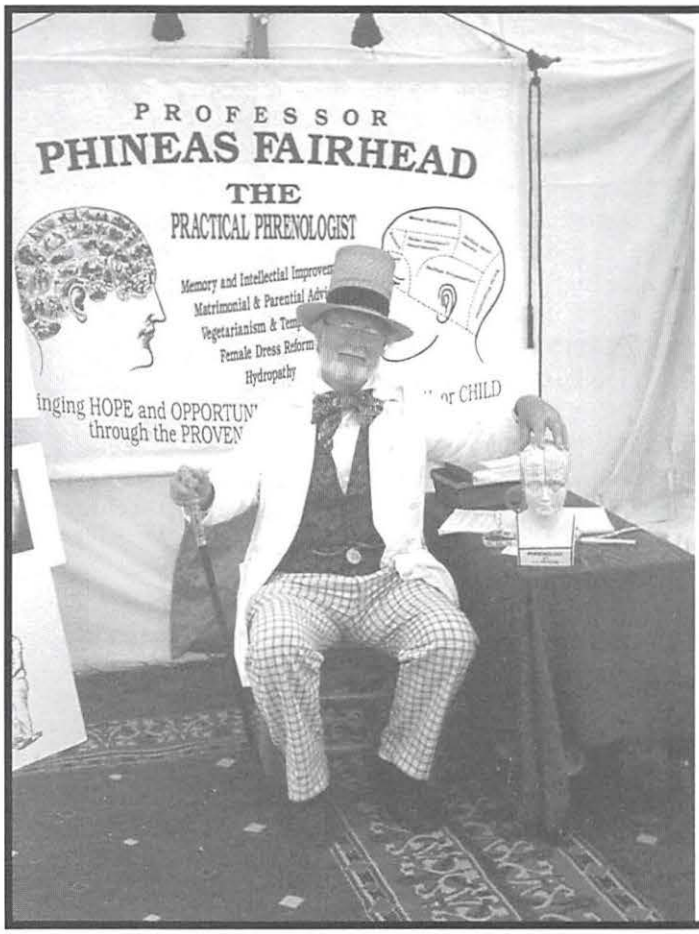

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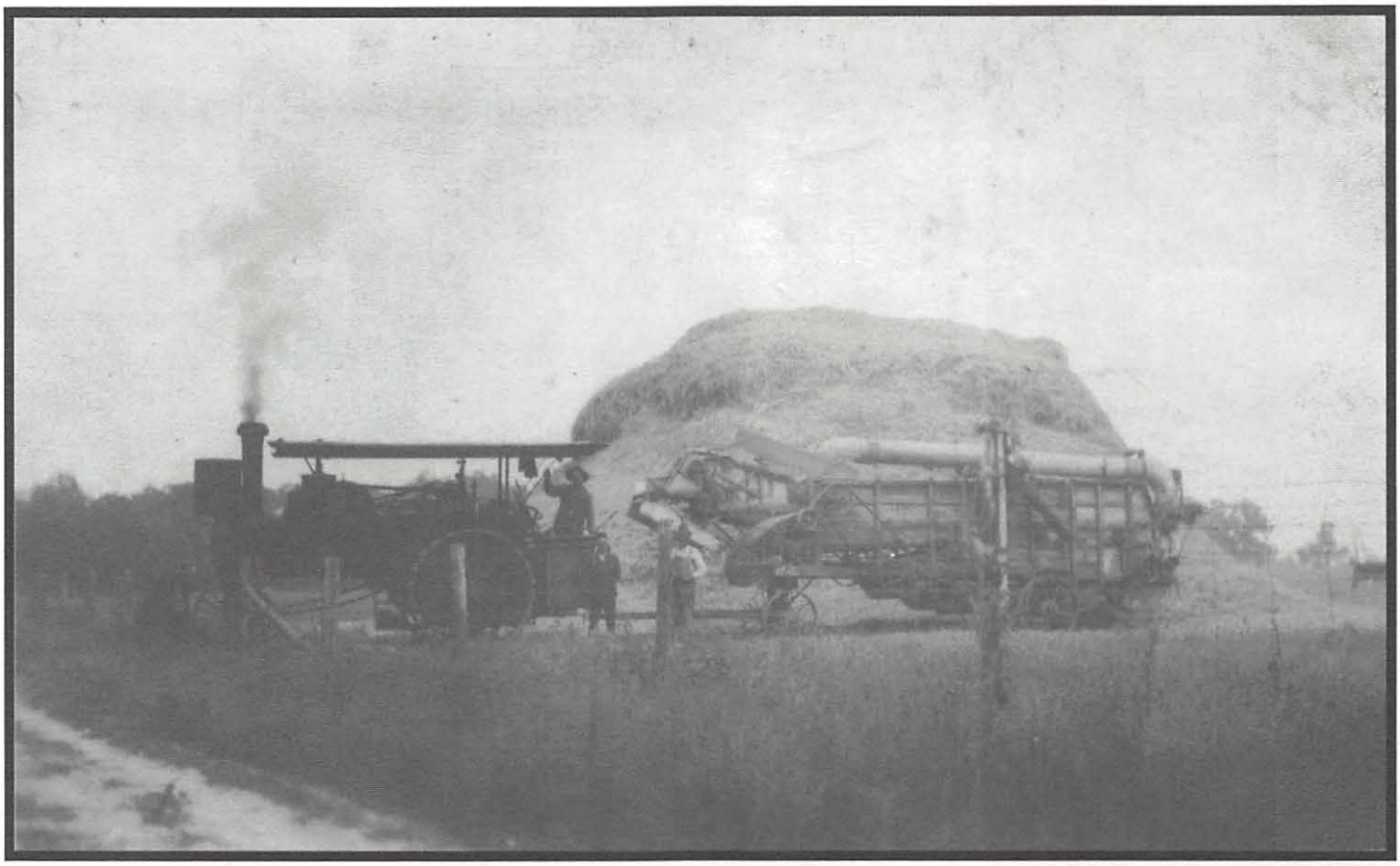
A MOMENT IN TIME

Edited by
Becky Crabb



"Cultivate Corn"—Oscar Ratsch cultivating corn on his farm near Lowell, Indiana in the early 1900s. The corn appears to be planted in check rows. Note the fly nets on the horses and the lightweight harness without brichen.

"Hay Load"—c.1900-1930. The farmer is bringing a load of loose hay in from the field. Note the blanket on the horse's back to keep the hay off.

"Buckley Bull"—Buckley Homestead barnyard c.1920, showing (left to right) hogbarn with loading chute, granary with lean-to addition, main barn for dairying with silo in front. Charles Buckley is showing his prize Holstein bull. This photograph was taken during the time period when dairy farming in northwestern Indiana was very profitable, and farmers were upgrading their herds.

"Threshing"— Threshing machine and steam tractor in front of a mountain of straw after threshing on a farm near Lowell, Indiana, c.1900. Note the belt rolled on the front of the thresher, which drives the threshing via the steam tractor. Farmers worked together, going from farm to farm to harvest small grain crops.

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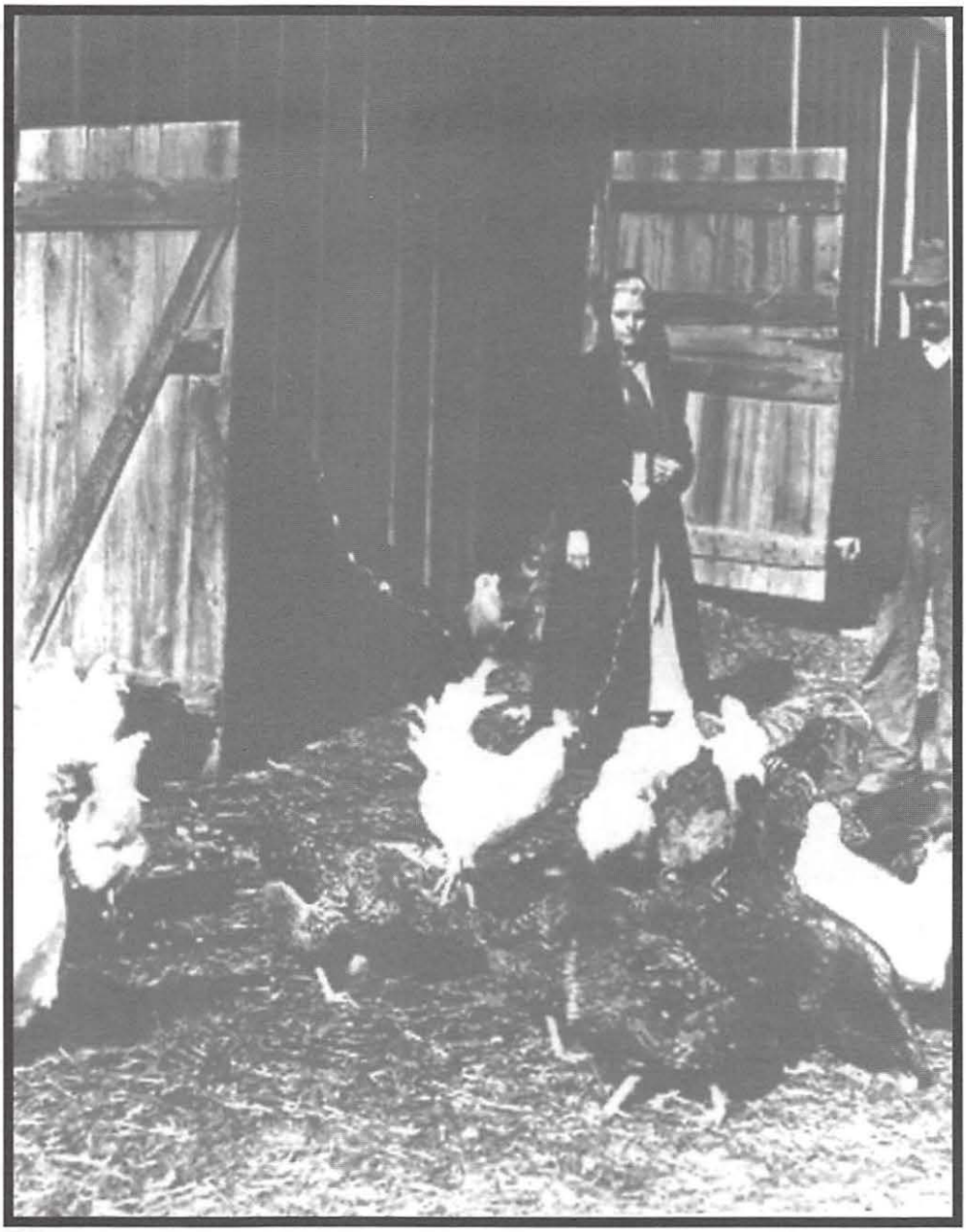
A MOMENT IN TIME

Edited by
Becky Crabb



"Woman with Chickens"—c.1900. Kate Minninger, granddaughter of Dennis Buckley, feeding the chickens. The chickens appear to be White Rocks, Rhode Island Reds, and Dominique (or "Dominikers," as they were often called).

"Buckley House"—Charles and Alta Buckley and children in front of the main house, c.1910-1915, before the "modernization" of the house in 1916. Note children's toys and pets: cat, wagon, tricycle, and pony. The gutter on the right end of the house carried water to the cistern. The condition of the picket fence shows that not all farms were kept pristine at all times. The pole in front indicates that electricity may have been available—Buckley was one of the first to pay to have electricity brought in from Route 2, about ½ mile from the farm.

"School Pupils"—c.1900. School pupils, along with a dog, are ready for a wagon ride. In the background are the school's belfry to the left and the woodshed on the right. The woodshed was used not only to store firewood, but also the teacher's horse and buggy. The woodshed was also the location for the teacher to use a switch on bad boys (original pupils of the school say it was only used on the boys).

Rural Hancock County: The Other Side of the Story, 1830-1860

BY

Jason Buss

Hancock County is located in west-central Illinois, right on the Mississippi River. The 794 square mile county (Bureau of Economic Analysis) was established on January 13, 1825, from unorganized territory that had been attached to Pike County, just to the south. Carthage, the county seat, is located directly in the center of the county (*Hancock County*). This humble county is home to only 19,153 people today (Bureau of Economic Analysis).

Rural life in this county developed much like most of the rest of the country throughout the 1800s. As people settled in the area, communities sprung up and flourished. The people of this county were mostly farmers, moving to the area from states in the east and from European countries. Life on a farm in the county was hard, with much of the day spent working. It wasn't all the work though. The traditional image of Ma and Pa with their pitchfork is only part of the story. There was also a vivid social scene with which most people are not familiar.

The traditional view of early rural settlers is that they were disconnected from each other and from society. This view is quite flawed. Early settlers were not only well connected to each other, but also very knowledgeable about what was going on around them. They were involved in politics, organized huge community gatherings, and built the very foundation for today's modern society.

Churches, Letters, and Education

Staying in contact with people was very important to these rural settlers and remains so today. After a town was formed and organized, some of the first things the settlers founded were churches, post offices, and schools. For example, the town of Augusta, in the southeast corner of Hancock County, was located in 1832, with the first cabin being built the following year. A mere two years later, a post office was established in May, and the first church—a Presbyterian church with nine members—was organized in July. The next year, the first school was taught by Miss Ruth Bateman. Over the next decade, a Christian and Methodist church were also organized (Mead et al., 115). The need for connection remains in today's society. While the means for staying in

contact with relatives and friends has evolved with the times, the foundation that the first settlers laid still remains visible today with post offices, churches, and schools in nearly every town.

Often times, early settlers would build a single log cabin that would serve as a church and school, as well as a town hall (Beard, 61). The manner in which these early settlers organized themselves to create these establishments shows the desire to stay connected with each other. Going to church every Sunday not only gave them a place for worship, but also brought people together and provided an atmosphere for friendly chats after the service.

Perhaps more telling of the desire to stay connected to people and the world, is the rapid growth of the postal service. This includes not only letters, but newspapers as well. From May to June of 1834, the Augusta post office collected only forty-two cents in newspaper postage; that amount doubled for June to September of the same year. By April to July of 1836, this had already grown to $10.64 (Mead et al., 11). Granted, some of the growth would be from additional people moving to the area, but the results are telling nonetheless. People wanted to know what was going on around them. Newspapers were the pulse of the community in the early days; their influence was always felt in the moral betterment and the uplifting of the community. Augusta got its first town newspaper in 1856. L. S. Grove and Son edited the paper they called the *Augusta Weekly Times* (Mead et al., 80).

Another way people stayed connected with more remote regions was by talking to travelers as they passed through. Typically, a traveler who arrived near nightfall would be taken in for the night. John Catlin, of Jacksonville, wrote about a trip to visit relatives who lived near Augusta. He writes about spending one night in the home of a family near what is now Frederick, where they and other travelers were offered a bed for the night (Mead et al., 13). Talking with travelers would give people on the frontier another way of getting news from more distant places.

Organizations

Another way that settlers were able to stay in contact with each other was by forming various organizations. These organizations also allowed them to meet with people who had similar interests as they did. Many of these organizations have survived the tests of time and are still in operation throughout the area today. They still serve many of the same functions now that they did for those early members. Formal recognition of many of these organizations did not come until the second half of the 1800s. For example, the Augusta Masonic Lodge was formed in October of 1859. Prior to their formal recognition, these organizations would have been just a group of farmers or townsmen gathering to visit and talk about the latest in politics or farm practices (Mead et al., 89).

The desire to form groups of people with similar interests is especially telling when looking at the formal organizations being formed throughout the years. During the later 1850s, there was a boom in the number of special interest organizations and groups being officially formed in the county. These ranged from the above mentioned Masonic Lodges to the Knights Templar to Eastern Stars, and even a Woodsmen's Organization (Mead et al., 98).

One person in particular was especially prominent in forming these organizations. James C. Bertholf was a charter member of at least four different organizations in the area. These included the Masonic Lodge, where he was the Worshipful Master; the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, where he was elected to the position of Very Illustrious Grand Senior General of the Order; the Knights Templar, who elected him as Junior Warden; and the Royal Masons, where he served as King. This prominent member of so many organizations was also a farmer and manufacturer of sorghum syrup. Several other charter members of these and other organizations in the area were farmers. This shows that not only were townspeople joining these organizations, but the local farmers were also very involved in them. Not only were they involved, but in some cases they may have been the driving force behind the formation of them.

Many of the organizations were likely formed just as a way

to socialize with other people from the area. Some, though, were formed as a way to take care of each other. The Modern Woodsmen of America served as a support body for the families of its members in the case of a death. The other members of the group would help the surviving family members with monetary and food donations as well as labor and other support for the grieving family. At least a couple members of this organization were local farmers (Mead et al., 85-98).

Early Fourth of July

Not all organized gatherings, had organized beginnings, however. In an edition of the *Augusta Eagle* from 1891, an unknown writer tells of an early Fourth of July celebration in Augusta. In the late 1830s, a group of young men decided that to celebrate the holiday, they would go for a ride and a supper. Each man asked a lady to accompany him. On the Fourth, at the designated time, the group met and rode to Pulaski in the best vehicles they had. Upon their return, arrangements had been made to have a meal prepared upon their return. The next year, the celebration was much larger. It was held on the farm of a Mr. Balfour in Round Grove. The Declaration of Independence was read and refreshments were served for all in attendance (Mead et al., 18).

Over the next few years, the event grew. By the early 1850s, three to five thousand people attended the event, with farmers and housewives bringing food for all, so a free meal could be provided for everyone there. That evening there would be a social dance, with amusements and refreshments (Mead et al., 16).

Plymouth, just north of Augusta, also had a large celebration for the Fourth of July in the 1830s, although it was nowhere near the size Augusta's reached. In 1837, Plymouth had a "regular old fashioned southern barbecue" (Young, 47). This meant a free dinner and drinks for all who would come. A trench was dug big enough to cook a whole beef, plus two hogs and two sheep all at the same time. A table stretching one hundred feet in length was prepared, and five to six hundred people showed up. A ball was also held that night (Young, 48).

Events such as these drew people from miles around. Some of these events are such an important tradition to the people of the community that they are still celebrated in a similar manner now. For example, Plymouth still has an annual picnic for the Fourth of July where everyone brings a dish to share. These events gave people another opportunity to see old friends and make new ones. It would also give people from all over the area to share stories and talk about major recent events in the area or in the country. Once again, this was an extraordinary opportunity for rural settlers to stay in touch with the world.

Fairs

The Hancock County Joint Stock Agriculture Society was organized sometime before 1854. This is known because the annual meeting for that year was not held, due to a lack of interest—the chief officers failed to show up. The *Carthage Republican* published a long article stressing how important agriculture was to the county's economy. The next year, interest in the society revived and the date for the county's first county fair was set. It would be held on September 19th and 20th at Carthage. That first year, there were ten classes, ranging from livestock to home goods. The fair was a resounding success and more classes were added for the next year (Beard, 31).

The county fair in Augusta grew out of an annual picnic for farmers and former citizens to get together and to exchange reminiscences. They also wanted to keep abreast of current events. Due to its great popularity and growth, the reunion was named the Augusta Community Livestock Association and relocated from Catlin's Grove to the community high school grounds. Soon the fair gained fame outside of the area, and exhibitors from further away started to become regular attendees.

The county fair gave farmers a chance to exhibit their produce and gave housewives a chance to see who had the best pie. The spirit of friendly competition drew people to the fair. The fair also helped exhibit the importance of agriculture in the county. The way the fair quickly caught on and persisted shows that people enjoyed the opportunity to get together and show off their produce. These separate county fairs eventually were combined for one big county fair that is still held in Augusta to this day. Many of the original classes are still in existence, and some even still draw a huge crowd—the pie baking contest continues to draw people from all over the county.

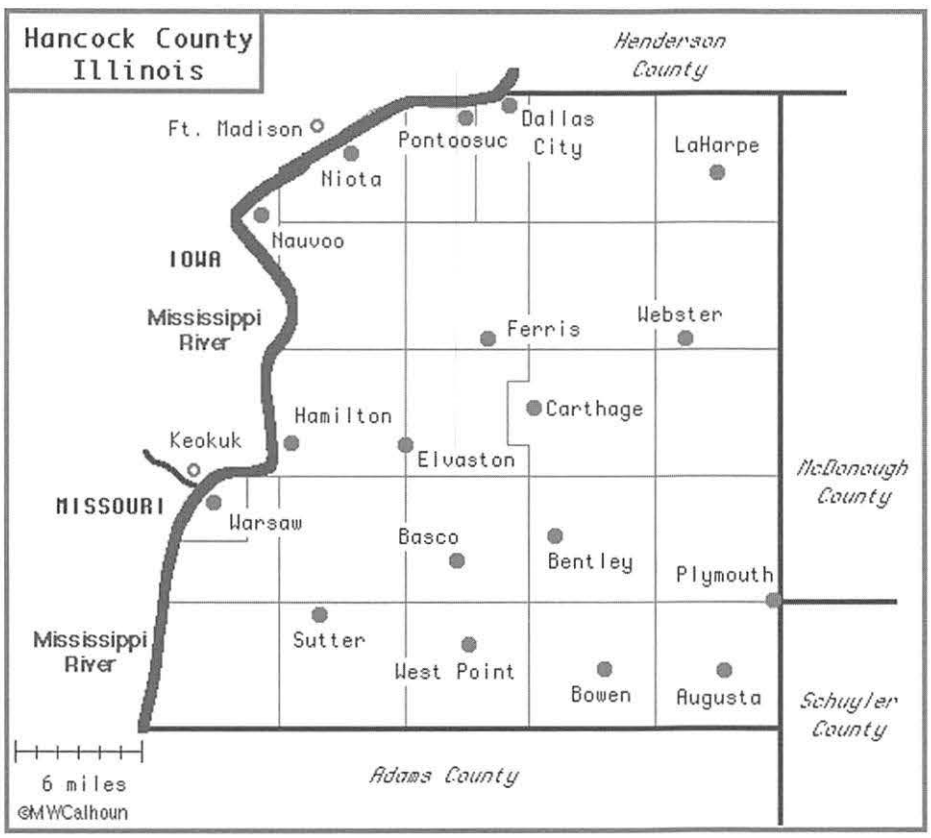
Sport

In the early days of Hancock County, one particularly enjoyable sport was hunting. One particularly favorite form of the big hunt was called the drive-hunt, or the race-hunt. A group of settlers would meet in a high spot on the prairie. On this spot, they erected a very tall pole. This pole was declared the center of the circuit. All involved would agree to start a certain number of miles from the pole, at a certain time. They would then head toward the pole, driving all the wildlife they would find ahead of them. The goal was that they would all reach the pole area at a particular hour.

All sorts of wild life would be found in this ring, mostly deer. When the deer discovered they were surrounded, they would begin to run around the circle—just as if they were on a race track. The hunters would then pick off all the animals they could for as long as possible. Once the first deer broke through the ring, the rest would quickly follow it. All the animals killed would be divided equally among those involved. This not only provided food for the hunters' families, but was also great sport (Wienke, 176). Sport is still very popular in the area today. Some schools in the county will even cancel class on the first day of big hunting seasons. Many hunters will still go hunt in groups today, though not in quite the manner that these early settlers did.

The Courthouse

The courthouse was a very important building in the early days of a town. Usually this was just a single log cabin early on, until a more permanent structure could be built. Carthage, the county seat for Hancock County, built its first courthouse in 1833. Only three years later, it was decided that the single room courthouse would not provide the offices and jury rooms required, so a new building was built. By 1839, the building was being used as a schoolhouse (Beard, 7). The new building still stands today, and is still used as a gathering place for various community events, as well as being the county seat.



These multi-purpose buildings were used for any kind of public meetings, as well as church services or even as a school. This gave citizens of the town a place to meet without having to invade someone's home. It also provided a good place to hold large public events such as town celebrations.

Politics

September 18, 1858 is a date that was remembered by the citizens of Augusta for a long time. J. H. Catlin, the publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, gave an account of the day that Abraham Lincoln visited this small country town. He arrived to visit and old acquaintance and friend of his, James Stark. He had come to give a speech while he was on his campaign trail. By this time Mr. Lincoln was becoming quite popular, and a huge crowd had gathered. At this particular event, Mr. Lincoln arrived in a horse drawn carriage, and every time he went to stand, the crowd would cheer and yell, which would spook the horses, causing him to fall back in his seat. He also gave speeches in Carthage, LaHarpe, and Dallas City that same year.

Abraham Lincoln wasn't the only political visitor to come to Hancock County. In Augusta alone, many other prominent political figures came to visit. Early in the summer of 1858, Stephen A. Douglas, Lincoln's political opponent at the time, also came to give a speech. By this time the railroad had come through, and many politicians who were passing through would stop and give a short speech off the back of their train car (Mead et al., 25).

These visitors would all draw large crowds in the small towns in the area. This gave citizens in the area the opportunity to see some of the big politicians of the time and also helped encourage them to stay involved politically.

Nauvoo

Not all interactions between people of the community were pleasant. Just as there are social and racial issues all over the world today, early citizens of Hancock County had their share of trouble. The most prominent of these centered on the Mormons in the city of Nauvoo. Nauvoo is located in the northwest corner of Hancock County. Between 1839 and 1846, Nauvoo was the largest town in Illinois, with a population of twenty thousand, as well as the most politically

powerful town (*Hancock County*). During these years, the population was mostly composed of Mormons.

Not all settlers in Hancock County were welcomed with open arms, nor were the social interactions between groups always pleasant. When the Mormons first arrived in the county, they were treated with great compassion, as the citizens from Quincy to Nauvoo believed them to be persecuted. Over the next few years, that relationship changed drastically. Soon the other residents of the county considered them to be thieves and took great caution when dealing with them (Mead et al., 46).

The change in attitudes towards the Mormons was largely due to differences in beliefs. The Mormons believed that the Earth is the Lord's, and that they are God's people. Therefore, whatever they found and wanted was theirs. In other words, gentiles had no rights that Mormons were bound to respect. This had an especially vicious effect within the farming community. While a large number of Mormons were considered to be honest, respectable people, there was still a great amount of thieving done in a small way—hens, hogs, tools, et cetera. Any time a gentile farmer had something stolen—be it hog or hoe—he would assume that it had been a Mormon that had stolen it. Likewise, if a Mormon had something stolen, he would assume that it was his gentile neighbors that had stolen it. Many of the Mormons in the county did not live in Nauvoo; a significant number of them were farmers who lived in or around the small communities all around the county. This brought these problems very close to home for many of the local settlers (Young, 58).

All of this led to a great amount of antagonism between the gentiles and Mormons within the communities in Hancock County. The peak in the tensions occurred on June 27, 1844. On this day, a mob attacked the Carthage jail, where the Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum were being held. During the attack, both were killed. This event caused a great unrest in all of the surrounding area. Many citizens feared a swift and violent response from the Mormon population of Nauvoo, and a panic followed. Most armed themselves, but some fled the area, quickly packing their bags and leaving in the dead of the night to go stay for a while with relative or friends far from the threat of attack (Young, 77). A story is even told that a particularly well-connected gentleman in Carthage fled in such a hurry that he was seen leaving town in his wife's clothing.

This panic had a profound effect on the county over the next few weeks and months. Many social activities slowed, or stopped altogether, as some citizens remained far from home or kept themselves locked away behind closed doors. Some people refused to travel, fearing being attacked on the road. While the feared response from Nauvoo never arrived, that didn't stop people from taking the utmost precautions. This incident changed the way Mormons and the rest of the county interacted until the Mormons emigrated in the spring of 1846.

Conclusion

Even though the early settlers of Hancock County were primarily farmers who had plenty of hard work to do every day, they still found time to get together with friends and family to celebrate big occasions and talk about recent events. These early people established the footprints of civilization in the county. As more and more people moved into the area, they began to do more and more things together. Soon, interesting gatherings began to grow around civic improvements such as school houses, religious centers, and courthouses. Spelling bees and debating societies at the schools, protracted meeting and baptismal services at churches, fairs, and major celebrations all gave folk the chance to get together and socialize a bit. Throughout the years, the events and people changed, but their reasons for gather remained mostly the same—stay in contact with each other and share their stories.

All of this shows that early settlers were not the simpleton farmers that most people picture when they visualize the early years of the Prairie State. These were very well connected, sophisticated people who were exceptionally aware of what was going on around them. The real story of what rural America was like is full of rich, colorful people who started many of the traditions that have survived through the years and are still seen today.

Jason Buss is currently an Agricultural Engineering major at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

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Appendix

Hancock County Maps

Image 1: Location within the State

Image 2: Historic Hancock County Map

Illinois County 1895 Maps. Ed. Pam Rietsch. 2003. CFC Productions. 5 April 2007. <http://www.livgenmi.com/1895/IL/County/>

Image 3: Modern Township Map

Hancock County, Illinois, USA. 2007. Infobahn Outfitters, Inc. 2 April 2007. <http://www.outfitters.com/illinois/hancock/>

Midwest Open Air Museums Coordinating Council Est. 1978

A brief message from the new President, and one from an old one, too.

I would like to take the time to thank everyone for voting me in as the next President of MOMCC. I am honored to be in this position and hope that I can fill the shoes of our past presidents. I would like to thank Rob Martin for all of his hard work over the past year. Rob brought quite a bit to the position, and his work was definitely appreciated.

I feel that 2008 will be a good year for MOMCC. We have a very strong board with some great individuals on it. I am both pleased and honored to work alongside some great young minds in the living history field. In addition to this, we have some wonderful conferences planned. I am also very pleased that we have planned ahead and have future conference sites picked out for years to come. The MOMCC magazine gets better each year and has proven to be an extremely professional and well done publication. The website continues to be a vital online presence that draws in more interest in our organization. Lastly, we are constantly working on professional development and new fundraising ideas through our endowment fund and fellowships.

For the New Year, I would like every person in our membership to be a part of this process of continual improvement. Your comments, suggestions and ideas are what make us a great organization. I would personally like your feedback so that we can make sure that your experience with MOMCC is both beneficial and enjoyable. With these ideas in mind, let us all have a great year and continue to make MOMCC an important facet of the living history and open air museum field.

Rick Musselman

More on the Candace Tangorra Matelic Award
by Carol Smith

The Candace Tangorra Matelic Award is given annually to the author of the article judged most outstanding in each year's volume of the Magazine. Funds for the prize are part of the annual budget. The purpose of the Award is to honor Matelic, a founding member of MOMCC, and to encourage submissions. Criteria used to judge the papers are outlined in the purpose section of the MOMCC bylaws found in most issues of the Magazine. They include "the interchange of materials, information, ideas" and discussion of topics relevant to the field. The winner of this year's award is Laura Daugherty for her article on the history of photography.

While there are many outstanding articles each year in the Magazine, the Award Committee felt that Laura's admirably summarized the development of techniques, described their faults, and offered information relevant to preservation of photographic artifacts.

From the Bookshelf

Jensen, Joan M. *Calling this Place Home: Women on the Wisconsin Frontier, 1850-1925.* Minneapolis: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2006.

After twenty-five years of research and searching through vast archives and never-ending documents and reports, Joan Jensen has produced a wonderful synopsis about the lives of both native and European-American settler women who lived in Wisconsin from 1850 to 1925. Her detailed work is a model for anyone interested in producing an in-depth local history, and her conscience effort to cover a broad range of topics relevant to the lives of these frontier women deserves praise. Her range of study not only impresses both current historians and history enthusiasts; it also appeals to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the women Jensen chronicles in her study. Her approach is unique; she spins a narrative web throughout her academic research, linking statistical data, historical inquiry, and research with real-life stories of the men and women who settled, farmed, and retired on the Wisconsin frontier.

Jensen treats her subjects with a delicate perceptivity, giving them a sense of agency not usually found within the pages of an academic history book. While Jensen does not explicitly purport an argument regarding the women she studies, she does come to some important conclusions regarding the various aspects of these women's lives. She is also complete in her analysis of these women's lives. She begins her study by creating a space in which these women live, work, interact, and eventually pass away. Jensen then categorizes her analysis into aspects of healing, caring, learning, matters of the spirit, and political landscapes. Finally, she tells the stories of those family members closest to her, integrating her own identity within the context of the history of these Wisconsin women.

Perhaps one of Jensen's greatest triumphs in this book is her treatment of the Native women who lived and struggled for survival on the Wisconsin frontier. Where many authors disregard or virtually ignore the Native American tribes that lived interspersed among settlers in Wisconsin, Jensen tackles their history head-on. She delves into the most intricate, detailed aspects of their lives from childbirth to education to life as an elder. Jensen should be praised for the way in which she places the spotlight on the women in the Native communities. She analyzes the type of work these women performed, from beadwork for profit to subsistence agriculture and concludes that these women played an integral part in supporting their families economically. The native women also ensured the transfer of culture from one generation to the next. Jensen also does not negatively portray the settlers' attitudes toward the native populations living in Wisconsin, although there were conflicts between settlers and natives. Instead, she places the native culture within the larger, diverse culture that emerged in Wisconsin during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

As well as Jensen does analyzing and describing the lives of the native women who lived in Wisconsin during this time, she also provides timely, in-depth analyses of income, welfare and health care, and elder care. Women provided key commercial income necessary to support the farm. Other authors, from Mary Neth to Barbara Handy-Marchello, have stressed the importance of women's production to the farm economy as vital income that played an integral role in the survival of the farm. Jensen adds to their scholarship with a sharp analysis of women's labor and production trends. She also develops important scholarship on welfare and health care options families faced in isolated communities. She writes that the state instituted mother's pensions to allow children to enjoy their childhoods at play and as a matter of social justice. She also addresses the type of care elders could receive in various situations, from within their own families to poorhouses and almshouses. Jensen does a thorough job tackling each of these issues with clear analyses to be understood not only by academic scholars but also by Wisconsin history enthusiasts.

Reaching a broad audience is not Jensen's only motive in writing a work of this scope and nature. Jensen is not only a presenting a historical account of the lives of the women who made their lives on the Wisconsin frontier; she is also validating her own self-identity within the complex story she weaves. For a historian whose collective works have already contributed much to enrich the historical record, Jensen could merely enjoy retirement and the fruits of her labor. Instead, she chooses to write a history unlike anything she wrote before. By including the narratives of her own family, Jensen colors her story with real-life tales of expectations, family emergencies, poverty, and love. Her family plays a central role in the re-creation of this frontier world, yet she treats her family stories as sources to enrich her text. She does not overly dwell on the sentimental remembrances of the storytellers in her family, and readers will find her approach refreshing. Her work also reaffirms the importance of oral interviews to enhance and explain academic scholarship. Many times historians forget that real people lived during these periods of historical inquiry. Jensen reminds historians to look to a variety of sources to enhance their own work. Her study is a model local history captured through the eyes of those who actually lived it.

Sara Egge is a graduate student in the Agriculgural History and Rural Studies Program, Iowa State University.

25th Anniversary Endowment Fund

Candace Matelic, founder of MOMCC, has pledged the first donation to the MOMCC endowment - $2,500, which she challenges MOMCC members to match 3 to 1. By the campaign's end the fund will increase to at least $10,000. Pledges already stand at $3,097. MOMCC established the endowment to honor the organization's 25th anniversary. The interest from the $10,000 investment will increase MOMCC services to members, including but not limited to fellowships to attend MOMCC and ALHFAM conferences, invited speakers at conferences, and special publications.

Contributions of any amount are welcome, and all funds will be restricted. Please use the endowment as an opportunity for planned as well as memorial giving. Contributions may be made in installments, with billing occurring twice during FY 2004-2005 (Sept. 1-Aug. 31) and twice during FY 2005-2006.

Please make your tax-deductible contribution today by completing the form below and mailing it to the MOMCC treasurer, Debra A. Reid. You will receive a thank-you letter that will serve as proof of your contribution.

Contributors will be listed in each fall issue of the MOMCC Magazine. If you wish to remain anonymous, please indicate that on the contribution form.

MOMCC thanks you for your support.

25th Anniversary Endowment Fund Contribution Form

Memorials: This donation recognizes the following individual (can be living!!)_____

Biographical information on the individual memorialized (optional)_____

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In Their Own Words: Wade Letters

Transcribed
by
Betsy Urven

In 1844, Sylvanus Wade moved his family to Greenbush, Wisconsin, twenty miles east of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The following is a letter that Sylvanus wrote to his cousins in Massachusetts to explain the move.

Sheboygan, Nov. 11, 1844

Dear Cousins,

I once more take my pen to renew a correspondence which has bin delayed by me in consequence of delay on your part altho I have received a Number of paper from you & have mailed Several to you, your papers are thankfully received by us in our present retired location which is 20 miles from Sheboygan West on the road leading from Sheboygan to Fon Du Lac on Lake Winibago, I Sold my farm at Fort Atkinson last Spring & have bought that 200 acres of Government land where I now live & we are keeping a public house the reason for my So doing is consequcnic of my health my health has bin Such for two or three years past that I had to abandon my Shop & in fact all kind of hard labor caused by using to heavy a hammer & my health otherwise has been very poor Since I had the Ague & Fever but since I came here I think my health has improved I think the climate agrees with me & my family better here then it South we have a first rate farming country around us & a near market for our produce at Sheboygan which promises to be the Second place in the Territory on Lake Michigan its natural advantages for a harbor is the best on the Lake and will require the least expense to improve it the Site for the Town can't be Surpassed its elevation from the Lake is 30 or 40 feet quite Steep the land in then perfectly leveled and dry the town was commenced by a company in 1836 which puritu it has now passed into other hands and last Spring it commence improving and the country around it commenced settling both are going as hard as fast as any other place I have been aquianted with in the Western country there has been a pier build this Summer & most of the Lake boats Stop at Sheboygan there has been considerable landing the latter part of the Season both emigrants & merchandize all of which has to be hauled by here which has rendered our business very good Since the pier was finished for all who passed are oblieged to call on us & most of them to stay over night we are just half way from Sheboygan to Fon Du Lac our nearest neighbor East is 13 miles & West 10 miles so you see we are living by ourselves but the road will Soon be settle I expect there will be 3 or 4 families near us this fall my Son in Law has bought 200 acres adjoining mind & I expect he will move here this winter we contemplate building a Saw mill next Season on my place I have excellent water power on a stream called Mullet with water Sufficient to drive a Saw or Grist mill all Seasons of the year times are very good &a general time of health in this part of the country crops come in very good this fall except potatoes which were injured by the wet weather we had & uncommon wet season until 6 or 7 weeks past is has been dry & warm & still continue quite warm the people of this Territory are quite alive in politics altu they have no vote for President yet they take as active a part as if they had I think if a vote of a Territory was taken there would be but little difference I for one Should not no have to vote Clay I should be unwilling to support & Polk I should not support in consequence of anti tariff principals I or favor of home industries & production but I most close please write on receipt of this & believe me Verr yours Sincerely S. Wade

With improvements made to the road and increased traffic on that road, Wade built a new inn in 1850. The Wade House remained in the Wade family until 1941, still serving as an inn from time to time with its most prosperous time in the 1850s. Today the Wade House is one of ten historic sites owned and operated by the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Allie Wade was the wife of Hollis Wade, youngest child of Sylvanus Wade. In 1844, Sylvanus brought his family to Greenbush, Wisconsin, where he ran an inn. In 1850, he built a new inn that remained in the family until 1941. Hollis and Allie married at the Wade House in 1867. They remained at Wade House until their deaths. These letters written by Allie to her mother give us a glimpse of daily life in rural Wisconsin in 1870.

Greenbush, Wisconsin May 16th, 1870

Dear Mother,

Once more I seat myself to answer a welcome letter. I rec'd your letter Thursday and intended answering it yesterday but we went to the graveyard and took a ride down the plank road and up around by Mr. Coles then Henry and Eunice called, then Mary Smith and Etta Stoddard and Hellen come in a while and it was then too late. Eunice came down to have us come up to dinner and as we were eating dinner she sat down and ate with us, so we did not go. I had not been up to the graveyard since Emma's monument was put up.

Well now I will commence my letter. We are all pretty well that are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Wade are in F--- we expect them home tomorrow. Frank is getting to be a great boy, he goes and gets the eggs at the barn, carries the basket down and brings the eggs back in it, has to go every time I go, and went to day with Polly. Hollis has built a pig-pen out by the smoke house and got three little pigs, and there is a little calf out in the place where the lambs used to be and Frank has to go and see them all quite often, he says "see ca'h p-kig (pig) go", guess I will interpret "see calf pig go", some words he speaks quite plainly and others we only learn by his motions, he is the greatest mimic I ever saw, if he sees any thing done he will try to do it days afterward and never forgets anything, he wants to take your picture every day and says "Mamma-kockings" he says Grandpa and Granma have gone "Lac Lac car" for F-d-Lac in car. You will be surprised when you see him he has grown so much I think though he is not as fleshy as when you saw him, he says "cuck coo" when I get him asleep and wants me to sing that song every night.

Tuesday eve. The folks came home safely to day and I think they both feel better for their visit. I feel very rich for Ellen sent me old cotton stockings enough to make Frank eight pairs of good nice stockings, long enough to come to his waist and two pairs of woolen stockings of Hellens with the heels and toes only worn out and they would be long enough for me, they are bright plaid red and blue and all colors and match so nicely with his new dress. If Frank always fares as well for things as he has so far his clothes will not cost much to us and he looks well as any of the little ones, and we think a little better. If I wanted to buy a lot of things I would not dare to send to you for samples again. I did not intend to have you do so as I don't think it is necessary to beg for him as we have not had to buy very much and I'm afraid you thought I was begging. Well I have some some to write if it is not old news but I guess it will some of it be news. Willie Stratton is married to a girl from Brothertown, and is home visiting. Mick Sweets wife has had and lost a little child and the Dr's think she cannot live. Mr. Wm Wall died Sunday morning and was buried to day in Mitchel forty four teams went from here to the funeral mostly Catholics. I presume you know that I. Bevier's folks have a boy and that Emogene Ripley has a girl.

Give my best wishes to all
My love to Mother
From Allie

May 30th, 1870 Greenbush, Wisconsin

Dear Mother,

I received your welcome letter on Thursday and it found us cleaning house. Hollis was sitting down a minute to rest from his tiresome job of scraping off the old whitewash. Sometime this week the barroom is going to be cleaned. I'm going to wash windows as I have good luck in getting them clean and like to do it.

I think of taking things out of our room and taking the carpet up this week but may not till next, but I think it needs dusting. I've taken my muslin curtains down and washed and put them away, and am going to put up my new ones that Hollis bought when we get cleaned up here.

I haven't written whether we were well but we are well

as usual I believe though there seems to be someone sick around through the country as the Dr's are pretty busy. Old Mrs. Durkee died last Friday, was buried yesterday. Mr. D feels very badly. It was her third stroke of apoplexy and there could be nothing done for her.

Tuesday eve. Hollis is rocking Frank to sleep so I will finish my letter. We are having very dry and very warm weather now. The grain and everything needs rain but things are as forward as generally in the middle of June. We have had a remarkable winter and spring. The potato bugs are worse than ever before, the big striped ones are think. They got on the potatoes when they are planting them in some places, before they could cover them up.

Grain looks well but Hollis thinks this hay crop will be light this year. Mr. Cady said while here that Hollis's barley and a piece of wheat on the Devoy's were the two best pieces he has seen in the county. Henry is away most of the time so Eunice and George are alone days mostly I guess. I have not been up to stay very long in some time. When we get the house cleaned up we will have time to go and feel more like going. I did not forget your birthday but I did not know what to send you. Eunice got a collar and I made one all but stitching it and put some of my tatting on it. I thought you could stitch it on a machine some time. You must take the will for the deed. I wish it was worth five dollars. Frank is quite a help about cleaning house. He was wings and brushes dipping into pails of water and scrubbing anything that is nearest. He went to the spoon basket the other day and took a spoon then went to the sugar box and sat down, opened it and began to eat down spoonfuls of sugar. He is as full of mischief as possible, but minds pretty well. He said tonight. He wanted "to eat." I asked him what he wanted. He said "bubber" and "doss" with "poon" meaning "bread and butter and sauce with spoon." A bumble bee got after him and frightened him today. He cried and told it to "go off". He plays out in the grass and all about the yard and when he wants to go out to play he says he wants to "eat grass". We think he is pretty smart and I guess that I am not much different from other crows, though at first I did not think him handsomest. It don't seem as though he is 18 months old and he says he is a "big boy". He looks very nice in his new dress. I have made a picture of him at the top of this sheet with it on.

I've washed and whitened all my clothes almost till they look quite nice. You must not think we don't miss you because we don't write every time that we do. We are waiting to tell you when you get home. I must stop for I written on all sides. Give my respects to all.

My love to Mother,
From Allie

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MOMCC Spring Conference

March 6-8, 2008 Early Industry

Hosted by: Lake County Parks Buckley Homestead

Sponsored by: Lake Heritage Parks Foundation

Buckley Homestead

Is a living history farm with three areas of interpretation: 1910's farm, 1900 one-room schoolhouse, and 1850's pioneer farm. The 1750's Woodland Indian Village is open on special weekends. Other features include a gift shop, herb garden, native plant bed, labyrinth, and picnic area. The Observatory is open one Saturday evening each month.

Lake County Indiana is known for Industry - early dairy operations, truck farms, railroads, steel mills and oil refineriers. The sand dunes along Lake Michigan are world-renown. View some of these areas during the Thursday workshops.

All conference sessions will be held at the Radisson Hotel. Workshop locations vary; and directions will be available at the hotel. The Friday evening dinner-dance will be at the Radisson Hotel.

Located at the intersection of I-65 and US 30 are many restaurants for your dining pleasure. Shopping malls abound in the same area. Four miles east of the Radisson is the Albanese Candy Factory, a "tasty" place to visit.

Conference Registration

A. Full Conference Registarion:

Includes Thursday reception, Friday & Saturday sessions, lunch, breaks, banquet, auction and entertainment.

MOMCC/ALHFAM member	**$75**
Postmarked on or before February 15	
MOMCC/ALHFAM member	**$95**
Postmarked after February 15	
NON-MEMBER	**$95**
Postmarked on or before February 15	
NON-MEMBER	**$115**
Postmarked after February 15	

B.Conference A La Carte

Friday sessions only member	$65
Friday sessions only non-member	$75
Fee includes Friday Lunch & Dinner	
Saturday sessions only member	$45
Saturday sessions non-member	$55
Friday Lunch only	$20
Friday Dinner only	$25

Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza

800 East 81st Avenue, Merrillville, Indiana 46410 US
Reservations: 888-201-1718

Telephone: 219-769-6311 **Fax:** 219-769-1462

Email: dcox@whitelodging.com

Conference rates are $65.00 per night, flat rate (up to 4/room). Mention MOCC for the conference rate. Reservation deadline February 4, 2008.

Located at the intersection of I-65 & US 30 the Radisson is attached to the popular Merrillville Star Plaza Theatre. The hotel is located just 30 minutes from Chicago, providing a central location for your next Chicago area hotel stay, meeting, conference or week-end get-away. We are in the process of executing a multi-million dollar transformation of our Merrillville hotel, including incorporating style and luxury into every detail, with the addition of a private concierge lounge and extensive guest room upgrades.

Services

Merrillville Hotel Services Take Care of You.
The Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza has everything you're looking for during your Merrillville, IN hotel stay. Live entertainment and fun activities for the whole family provide for an enjoyable stay. Our Merrillville hotel offers an indoor and outdoor pool, spas, two restaurants, arcade, a fitness room and Starbucks© coffee.

Dining

Enjoy the convenience of on-site Merrillville Hotel Dining. Get a taste of Ireland at T.J. Maloney's which offers traditional Irish cuisine as well as American favorites. A fresh breakfast buffet is served daily in the new Star Café. Enjoy a pint of Guinness at T.J. Maloney's pub, or sip on a specialty coffe in the on-site Starbucks©. The Radisson Hotel Star Plaza also offers daily in-room dining.

ALL-DAY WORKSHOPS

Thursday, March 6

Tour of Lake Michigan dunes, Barker Mansion and Lighthouse Museum
Rug-Hooking at Radisson Hotel
Ghost-Hunting Tour
Pewter Spoon Making at Buckley Homestead
"Showcase" at Radisson Hotel

HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS:

China painting at Radisson Hotel
Spenserian Writing at Radisson Hotel

SITES OPEN FOR TOURING:

Buckley Homestead Living History Farm
Deep River County Park with Historic Wood's Grist Mill and maple sugar operation

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Friday, March 7 & Saturday, March 8

Steel Mills
Academic Standards & School Tours
Ice Cutting Industry
Historic Land Formation-Calumet Beginnings
Spenserian Writing
Buzz about Beekeeping
Circus History
Early Railroads-All Aboard!
Porcelain Art Industry
Ethics
History Hits the Road
Youth Volunteers
Going Fishing
History and Tools of Hooking
Ghost Hunting
Archeology and Indian Finds
Chautauqua

LIVE AUCTION

Thursday Evening at Radisson Hotel
Bring items for auction and LOTS of money
Expect to be entertained
Dinner on your own
8:00pm Live Auction at the Radisson Hotel

FRIDAY LUNCH

Keynote Speaker:
Chris Vallilo and "Bucky" Hawker,
Folkway Music and how to use it at your site

FRIDAY EVENING DINNER DANCE

WWII USO Show
MP's, Homefront, Swing Dancers
Pre-meal Spam Snack
Big Band Music
Photos
Dress in 1940's time period or favorite time period

The Midwest Open-Air Museums Coordinating Council (MOMCC) has established an award for essays in honor of MOMCC's first president, Candace Tangorra Matelic.

This $200 cash award recognizes the best essay submitted to the awards committee related to MOMCC interests as follows:

to promote excellence and to provide a forum for the interchange of materials, information, ideas and consideration of professional issues within the open air, interactive, and historical museum professions.

Previous Winners

2006 - Laura Daugherty
"Pictures of the Past: Conserving and Preserving 19th Century Photographs,"
Vol. 27, no. 1

2005 - Merrilee Garner
"Community Collaboration: Schools, Museums, Historical Societies and You"
Vol. 26, no. 2

2004 - Debra A. Reid
"Living History's Long Row to Hoe: Midwestern Open Air Museums and Twenty-First Century Threats and Triumphs"
Vol. 25, no. 2&3

2003 - Anneliese Detwiler
"Mission Possible"
Volume. 24, no. 3

Winning essays are selected by a board-appointed committee from all feature articles appearing in the Magazine in the past year.

ALHFAM Membership

ALHFAM membership entitles you to four issues of the *ALHFAM Bulletin*, reduced registration fees for ALHFAM conferences, and reduced costs for the *Conference Proceedings*, the Replica Resource List, and other publications. Members will be included in regional mailing lists and will receive a membership directory annually. Supporting and Institutional members receive the *Conference Proceedings* as a benefit of membership. Institutional members may send staff (paid or unpaid) to the annual conference at the reduced registration fee available to members. Joint membership is for two voting members sharing a mailing address but interested in only one set of mailings, including the *Conference Proceedings*.

Membership is for one year from date of receipt of dues.

Membership Levels:	
Regular	$20
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Joint	$35
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Business Associate	$50
Institutional (Small)	$50
Institutional (Medium)	$75
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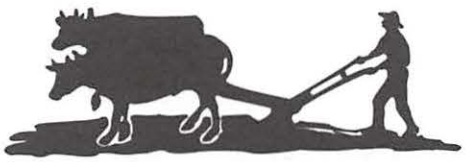

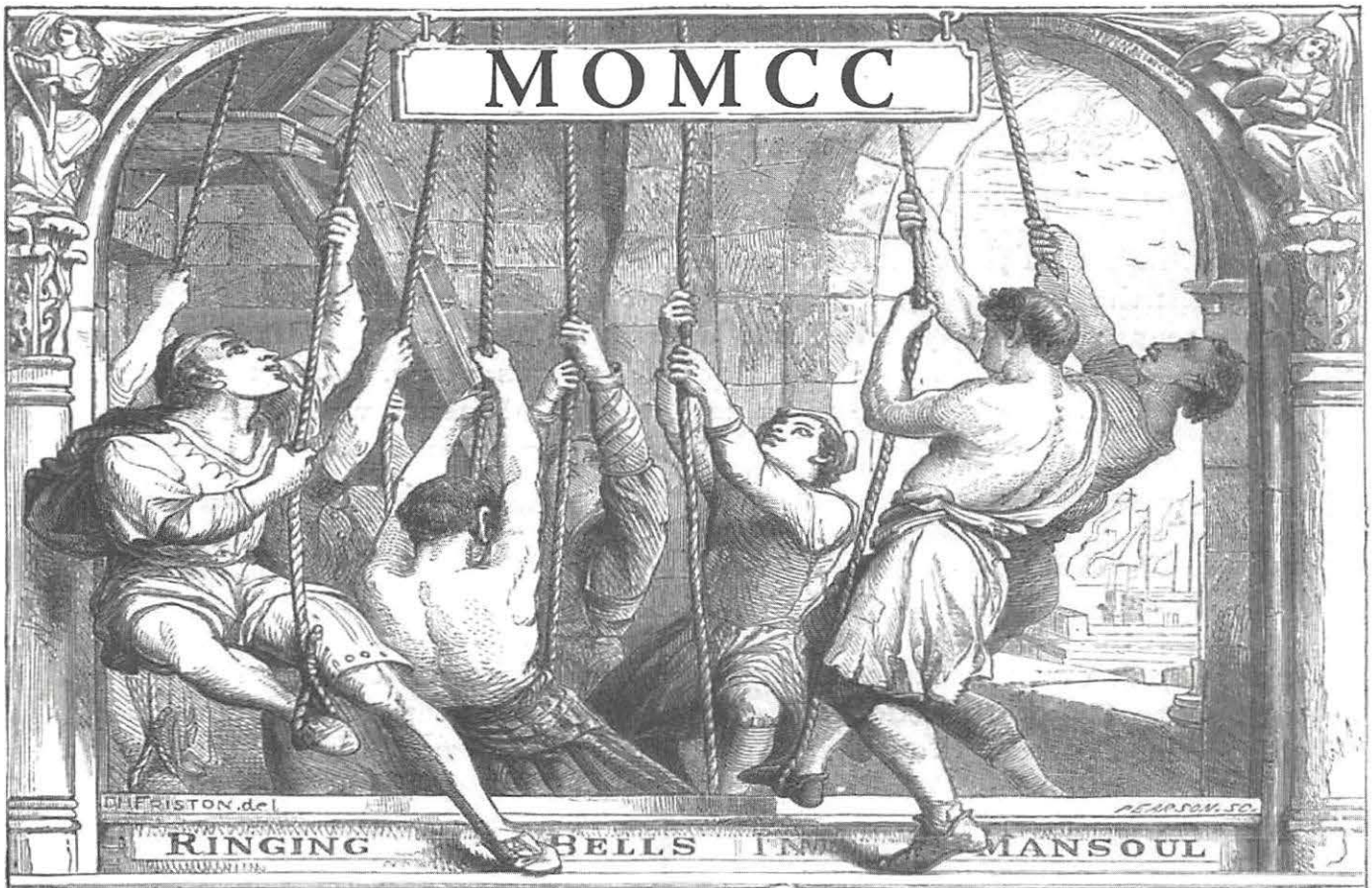

The purpose of MOMCC is to "further the interchange of materials, information, ideas and consideration of professional issues within the open-air interactive and historical museum professions." Submissions regarding any topic of relevance to this purpose are welcome and needed. This is your magazine! Length is not an issue: one page and even one-column articles are needed as much as longer submissions.

If possible, submissions should be made on computer disk in an IBM compatible format, Microsoft Word and Word Perfect are the editor's choices for submissions. Macintosh format is acceptable but please allow extra time for conversion. Contact the editors before submitting a final copy of extensive manuscripts for the most current computer guidelines.

At least one hard copy of the article must be submitted. Hard copies should be double-spaced. A title page should accompany the hard copy, and must include the full name of the author(s), their professional affiliations(s), and title(s). Please include a brief biographical paragraph from each writer for an author's note at the end of the article. Also include a complete address, telephone number(s), and email if available of a contact person.

Photographs and illustrations are welcome and encouraged. Glossy black and white photographs reproduce with the best quality, but any clear photograph, color or black and white, is usually suitable. Suggested captions and credit lines must be included with the photographs.

Clear, high quality copies of diagrams, drawings, and other illustrations may also accompany the article. As with photographs, suggested captions, credit lines, and other documentation must accompany the illustration.

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Books, journals, bulletins, and other sources used in the creation of an article must be properly referenced. The editors require following the guidelines set forth by the *Chicag Manual of Style* or *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate Turabian.

The writing style should be clear and direct. Remember that the articles in the Magazine are seen by readers of many different professional backgrounds. Please double check the grammar, spelling, and punctuation before sending in submissions. Other than simple corrections or other minor changes, the author(s) will be asked to make any changes deemed necessary.

MOMCC does not pay authors for accepted submissions. All accepted articles are considered contributions to MOMCC.

The editorial staff can make no specific guarantee as to when an article chosen for publication will appear in print.

For the return of submitted materials, please include a first class SASE. Contact the Editor-in-Chief with any questions regarding proposed topics or content. All submissions to be considered for articles should be submitted to the following address:

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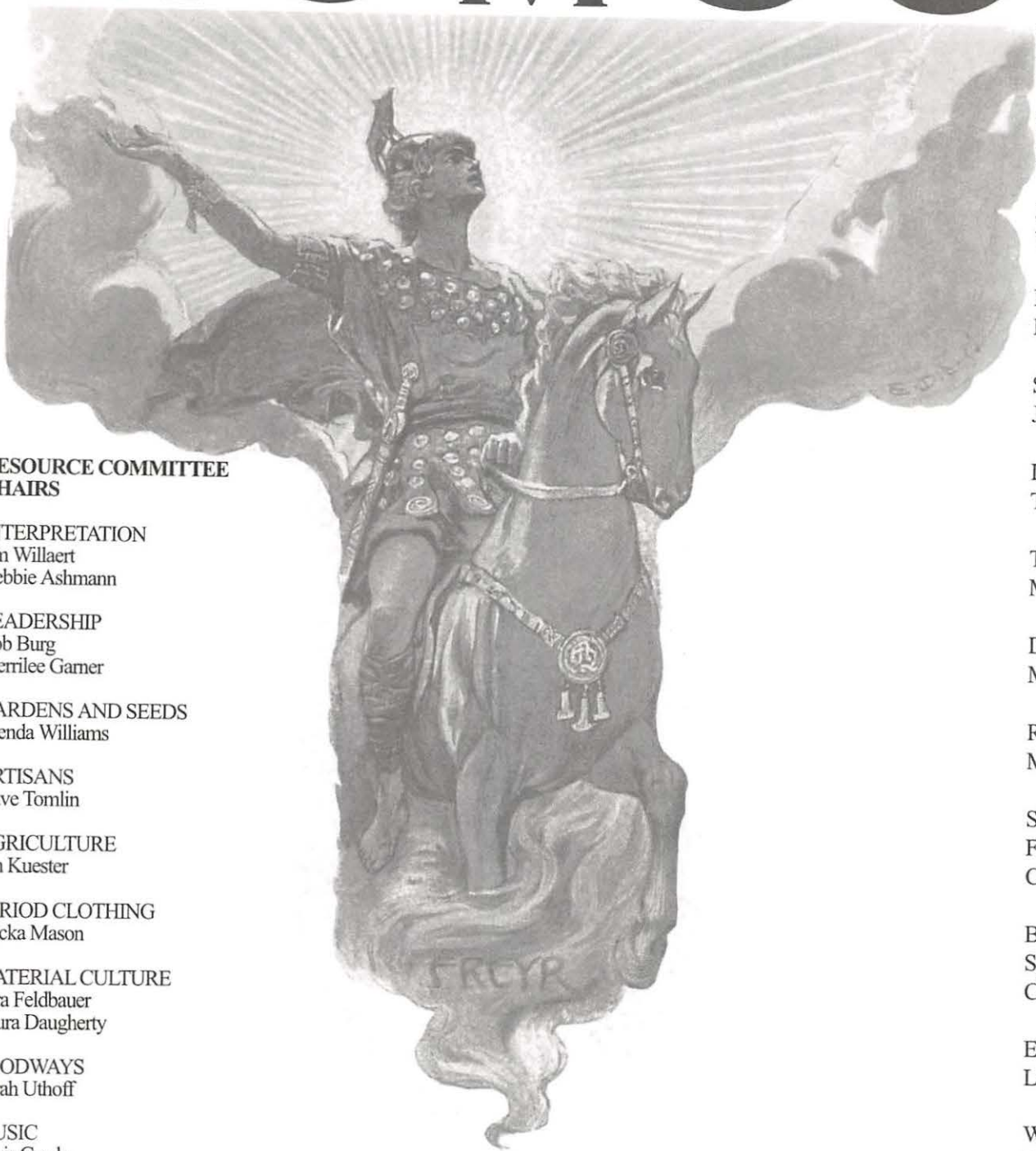

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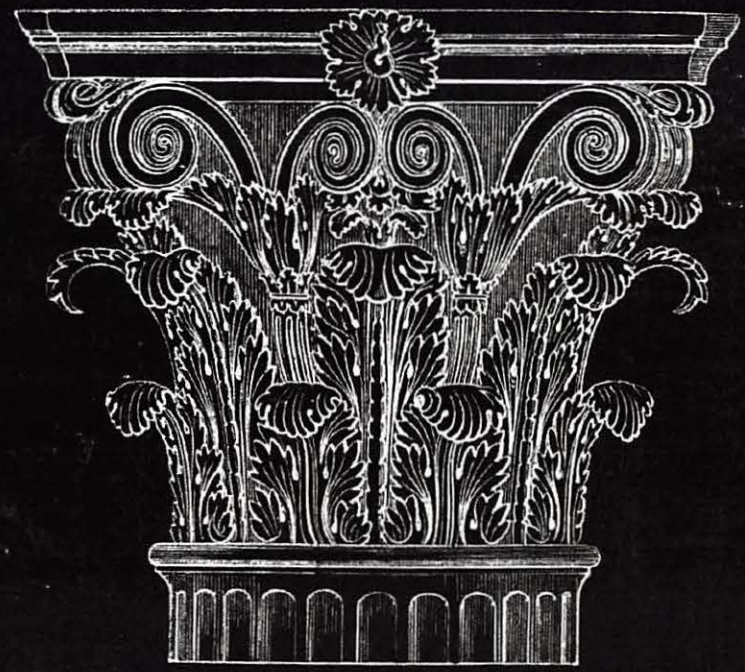

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